

CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

MARCH 9, 1998

THE FINAL HOURS

*Does a doctor have
the right to end a
patient's life?*

Dr. Nancy Morrison
gave two mysterious
injections to Paul Mills
on his Halifax deathbed.
Last week, a judge
threw out the murder
charge against her.



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Novelist, playwright and beloved storyteller W. O. Mitchell, who died last week at 83, put Canadian fiction on the map with *Who Was Alex Seaver the Night?*

From The Editor

High River's gift to Canada



It has been more than 65 years since W. O. Mitchell moved his family back to High River, Alta., after a three-year stint in Toronto as fiction editor at Maclean's, then a public affairs and features magazine. By then, he had written his most famous novel, *Who Has Seen the Wind?* The popular *Jake* and the *Kid* plays, adapted from the pages of Maclean's, were running on CBC Radio. And the folks back home marvelled at how the Mitchell family "extra-terrestrial" Mitchell, who had spent many of his early years doing odd jobs, proudly explained that he was a writer now. "Yes," came the reply, "but what do you do for work?"

That anecdote, which no doubt brought a hearty chuckle from Mitchell, appeared in a 1956 Maclean's profile by writer McKelvie Porter titled "The Man Behind *Jake* and the *Kid*." It was one of several gems that served up last week as a search of our archives following Mitchell's death at home in Calgary at the age of 88. In a tribute, Saskatchewan writer Sharon Dooley observes that he was "as much a symbol of the West as the snowbirds and the wind, and a Canadian original" (page 66). Beyond the pain for his family and friends, Bill Mitchell will be missed as much for his contribution to a broader understanding of the country as for his widely acknowledged place in the country's literary landscape.

Although fiction was his métier, he had the instincts of the best reporter Porter recounted that, during a dinner with Mitchell, the great actor John Dineen—who played Jake in the radio series, was passed by a pair of varmints sitting on the table. "Throughout the



Mitchell in 1970, starring *Jake*

meal," Porter wrote, "Mitchell smiled at it politely. At first, Dineen was too polite to comment, but eventually he exploded: 'Bill! What a hell goes on?' Mitchell explained: 'The boys try to get far as well as find words to describe the spirit of varmints. And I can't. And, damnit, it's driving me crazy!'"

Mitchell had few such lapses, whether in his sterling prose that evoked the enchantment and pain of life on the western prairie, or in public appearances where he had a thespian's gift for connecting an audience with his stories in a delivery

fitting the voice of someone who had seen and lived life's trials. He began dreaming of being a writer during his youth when he was recovering from a bout of tuberculosis. After graduating from the University of Alberta as a teacher, at the depths of the Depression, he took the only daring course of action. Later, he worked variously as a gardener, a chef, a salesman and a carnival music man—before settling down to teach upon his marriage to a teacher's daughter, Merna Hurtle. Eventually, they moved to High River, where he finished writing *Who Has Seen the Wind?* With its publication in 1940, Bill Mitchell became High River's gift to the world of letters. But for lovers of Canadiana, he is still regarded as locally—and we are the richer for having shared in his journey.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

The Halifax watch

Bruce Bergman marked his first anniversary as Maclean's Atlantic bureau chief covering one of the most gripping stories to occur so far during his watch in Halifax: the attempted prosecution of Dr. Henry Morrison on a charge of first-degree murder related to the death of a terminally ill cancer patient. For five days in mid-February,

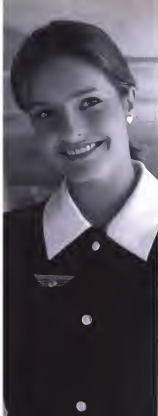


Bergman, a rare glimpse from a chief

Bergman sat in on a preliminary hearing that weighed the Crown's evidence against the respected Halifax neurologist. By late morning would be reportable from the hearing, if Morrison were sent to trial. But when a provincial court judge dismissed the charge and discharged Morrison last Friday, Bergman was free to tell the story in his notebooks. It provides a rare glimpse

into how doctors and nurses deal with the terminally ill in the final moments of their lives. That cover package, edited by Assistant Managing Editor Robert Marshall, begins on page 46.

For Bergman, a 42-year-old Edmonton native, the Morrison case caps an eventful year during which he has contributed reports to every section of the magazine. His cover stories and special reports have dealt with subjects as diverse as the launching of the massive Hibernia oil project, the opening of the land link to Prince Edward Island and the celebrations marking John Cabot's voyage to the New World 500 years ago.



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WINNING THE HEARTS OF THE WORLD





Canada-U.S. women's gold-medal game: best hockey

Setting the bar higher

THE incredible and wrenching in the wake of two national hockey disasters at the Olympics brought a flood of live lessons in teenage directed at Canadian and American managers, coaches and players ("Hockey meltdowns," Cover, March 2). Let's face it, what we have seen is a well-deserved debut of NHL hockey by European hockey. Some of the Canucks and Flyers playing in North America have been affected by the style of their NHL clubs, but when they play for their countries they follow a game plan that does not rely on hitting, would-high, stick work, blocking the goalie's view and hoping for an accident and during the puck into the corner with a 30-50 chance of recovering it in a wrestling match. The best European players and, like, the Bobby Orr and Wayne Gretzky know that international goals are scored with the stick under control. The best hockey game (if not the best hockey) in North America is currently played by women. If Canada must that Don Cherry's hockey is "their" game, so be it. But let's stop out of the Olympics.

Paul DeWolf
Calgary

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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I can certainly understand CIBC's decision not to show any curling, and instead, concentrate on the address who came to the XVIII Olympic Games. Curling differs little from lawn bowling, except that it is done on ice. Should lawn bowling be included in the next Summer Games?

Robert Leeman,
Byron

Shipshape navy

What "aging fleet" are you talking about? ("Beard for the Gulf," World, Feb. 20) HMCS Toronto is one of 12 modern frigates in the Canadian navy, along with the comparably modern Tribal class destroyers and brand new coastal defence vessels. Only the replenishment ships, submarines and helicopters by your description. The fleet, as a whole, is more modern than at any time since the start of the Second World War.

Julian N. Thomas
Kingsley, Ont.

Gulf's 'gunslinger'

Deirdre McMurtry ("Gulf's resolute row boss," The Bottom Line, Feb. 20) and Peter C. Newman ("Calgary says goodbye to a Texas gunslinger," The National Business, in the same issue) have sharply different takes on their careers. In J. P. Bryan, the "savior of Gulf Canada Resources Ltd." According to McMurtry, the "tough-talking Texas boss" 25 per cent of Gulf in 1994—then promptly slashed 40 per cent of its staff. Newman appears to have nostalgically over the image of the "gunslinger," "rural" "gunslinger" who, like that peacocks Wyatt Earp, is really a very nice guy—a sensitive "art historian." As McMurtry points out, however, "Bryan leaves Gulf with \$9.7 billion in debt at a time when world prices have dropped sharply and the company's stock is trading around a one-year low." He also leaves Gulf "cushioned by a hefty severance package." As well, when you're in the bag league you have to make it, bag, one way or the other.

Albert Tuck,
Ottawa

Prose C. Newman writes that "everybody made a loss over the fact that (J. P. Bryan) wasn't asked to join the Petroleum Club." Not so. Profit would men and women in the club.

'Rats' in the Senate

It is laughable that the Canadian Senate now holds the absentee senator, Andrew Thompson, in contempt. What right does that undemocratic body have to sit on its high horse and practice a holier-than-thou attitude towards one of its own, when it knows of many such rats in its ranks? I say we dissolve the Senate we've got—we deserve the likes of Thompson. We deserve them because we are complacent about real democracy and political change. As long as we accept this uncivilized and privileged wedge of feudalism, we deserve everything we get, and at \$64,000 a year, each of these unelected representatives is laughing at us all the way to the bank.

David N. Lifford,
Hubbard, N.S.

Calgary Petroleum Club if they so desire, provided they have two sponsors, a decent record and there is no waiting list. Even I managed to do this some years ago, though I recently resigned. The reason Bryan joined the Petroleum Club was quite logical: he lived in the same building. All he had to do was take the elevator to eat there.

Marie Martin
President, Western Petroleum Ltd.,
Calgary

Education reform

Hoops Barlow should be commended for his dedication and commitment to education reform in Canada ("A player named Hoops," Education, Feb. 20). As a university student, I find his leadership in spearheading tuition fees are excessive, student debt and creating barriers for working-class students. As a democratic country, we owe our student population the right to be educated regardless of class.

Max Bink,
North Bay, Ont.

Millennium hug

In your Feb. 18 issue, you ran a Business News item titled "Millennium hug alert" about the bug that will cause computers to crash in the year 2000. I'm interested to see that any two dollars have gone to a federal task force, have been recommended to that small and useless Canadian business to be used financing and insurance of the deal to deal with the bug ahead of time. The millennium bug is a serious financial burden to this sector of the economy, and we're small



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Backstage



Anthony Wilson-Smith

Mitchell Sharp has seen it all

One of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's strengths as a politician is a selective memory. Despite his penchant for sentences that omit verbs, names and structure, he acutely knows people and situations that are important to him and the Liberal party. In January, when the Liberals held a caucus meeting in the Ontario town of Collingwood, the Prime Minister, during a break, went on a private mission. He went to see Walter Burns, who was finance minister from 1954 to 1957 in the Louis Saint-Laurent government, and who is now 94 and still practicing law in near by Marquette. When Chrétien returned to Ottawa, he called his old friend and adviser Mitchell Sharp, "Mitchell,"

he said, "I remembered you, so I hope you'll call him." Sharp did and he and Burns happily reminisced. Recalling the incident later, Sharp said without pause "What a great thing that a fellow Walter's age is so active."

That is as opposed to one of, say, Sharp's age—86—who puts in regular five hours as a special \$1 a year adviser to the Prime Minister. One measure of influence: his office is in the east side of the Langevin Block in adjacent to that of Elder Goldstone, the heavily influential economic griot—as, as detractors say, "groovy emperor"—of the Liberals.

Recently, Sharp changed the postage in his office. "I felt," he explained, "that I had looked at the same things too long." In fact, he has looked out over Ottawa—said, in a sense, the suburbs—since arriving in the city as a freshly married civil servant in 1942. In one form or another, he has looked out at Chrétien for more than half that time. In 1993, when they met, Sharp was trade minister in Lester Pearson's government. By then, he had witnessed the creation of most modern-day social programs, helped negotiate New England's entry into Confederation in 1948, and served as deputy minister under legendary G. D. Howe. Sharp, a Midwesterner by birth, asked for Chrétien to be made his parliamentary secretary when he became finance minister. Over the years, Chrétien became a regular visitor to Sharp's home in the Glebe district of Ottawa, often he would drive by the house, look for Sharp's car, and if it was in the driveway, ring the bell. Sharp introduced him to everything from classical music, to the ins and outs of cabinet politics; in a pragmatic, realist philosophy of politics still known in Ottawa as "Mitchell Sharp liberalism."

He has always been carefully that canny and just always beloved by opponents. Longtime Progressive Conservative John Crosbie, at his guesses *No Holy Shards*, says simply that "Sharp was on the public test for a million years." Crosbie removed him from his job as commissioner of the Northern Pipeline Agency in 1988. When Chrétien won election in 1993, Sharp, surprisingly, did not call to

congratulate him. Chrétien, a bit hurt, called him—and Sharp explained that he had not wanted to bother him at such a time. Several days later, Chrétien called again; this time, to offer Sharp a job as his adviser, specializing in ethical issues.

But Sharp's influence only into a variety of spheres. As foreign affairs minister in the early 1970s, he played a key role in making Canada one of the first Western countries to formally recognize Communist China. Chrétien's warm, trade-friendly approach to China today—despite its numerous human rights violations—is a direct descendant of that policy. And perhaps more than anything else, Sharp helped shape Chrétien's small "c" conservative fiscal instincts. Before Paul Martin's present lot, Sharp was the second-

to-last finance minister to provide one of the most successful budgets. In his first budget, in 1989, Ottawa brought in \$9.1 billion in revenue and spent \$7.9 billion on programs. It paid out \$1.1 billion on the national debt—a leftover from the Second World War. That left a surplus of \$2.1 billion. "It was," says Sharp, "taken for granted that a finance minister would present a balanced budget." At the same time, unemployment levels averaged slightly below five per cent, and the dollar hovered at about equal value to the U.S. counterpart. The challenge at that time, he says, was to "restrain growth to manageable levels" as Canada unknowingly neared the end of the greatest sustained period of economic growth in its history. Before the budget was released last week, Sharp was sought out by both the Prime Minister and Martin, each of whom wanted to reflect on them—and now.

In 1980, a profile of Sharp in *The Ottawa Citizen* suggested that his public communication's job—to which he was appointed by Pierre Trudeau in 1978—was "likely to be his last major assignment for the federal government." In 1988, the Globe and Mail effectively wrote his political obituary by including him in a series called "Let's let you go to bed." For his part, Sharp cites only two clients to finish: One came in 1972 when, because of his known enthusiasm for classical music, he was invited to play the piano with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at a fund-raiser. The other is his contribution to the creation of a finance minister buying new shoes for each budget. Sharp said that shortly before the budget in 1996, his staff told him they had just learned of the tradition—he had bought a pair. Almost 15 years later, a magazine writer called, trying to learn the names of the traditions. Between them, Sharp says with a smile, they concluded that "while there was no such tradition in 1965, there was in 1996." His conclusion: "Must have been an underman who sold it to my staff."

And a good one. Hopefully, for Mitchell Sharp, who still looks as though he has many more miles to go before he sleeps.

Opening Notes

Edited by TANYA DAVIES

A bid to turn Olympic gold into cash

The Canadian Olympic athletes returned home last week, some victorious, others not. The men's hockey team—which came a disappointing fourth—landed in Vancouver, where only 10,000 were waiting. But for the lower and short-track speed skaters, it was a different story. The athletes, who were one of Canada's 15 medals, were met by hundreds of fans and journalists as they started a whirlwind cross-Canada tour that touched down in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Calgary. The crowds were eager to meet all team members, but the longest lines were for medalists Catriona LeMay Doan, Susan Acland, Eric Redford and Mary Gagnon. "So far the reception has been amazing," said Acland, who bronze medal-winning long tracker LeMay Doan, 26, who potentially acquired citizenship. "I think I will have to start my signature, though, maybe postcards."

The winners hope their medals will turn into corporate loot, both for themselves and their sport. "I would like to get a big corporate sponsor," said short-tracker Redford, 21, who captured an individual bronze and a relay gold. "But it's not easy to



If Olympic medals were awarded on a per capita basis, Canada's first standing would only slip one spot. But some of the smaller nations would jump up into the top 25, while Russia (15), United States (16), Japan (17) and Italy (18) would be bumped down.

THE FIVE CUPPER RINGING, WITH THE OFFICIAL MEDAL SHOWINGS IN BOLD LETTERS:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Norway (7) | 6. Canada (5) |
| 2. Finland (6) | 7. Germany (3) |
| 3. Austria (4) | 8. Sweden (2) |
| 4. Switzerland (3) | 9. Czech Republic (2) |
| 5. Netherlands (1) | 10. Belarus (1) |

SOURCE: THE WORLD JOURNAL

mean scores was awarded. The winner was the Netherlands, with 55.9, the Swedes, 55.5, and Ireland, 54.1. Canada, 52.6, was seventh, but The Toronto Star said a margin of error to rank it fourth—along with seven other countries. The Globe and Mail wrote that New Brunswick was the only province below the international average score of 53. The Star had New Brunswick at 50.1. The Canadian Press ranked Canada second in the advanced math test, while The New York Times found Canada just average. Sometimes the simplest math is the hardest to do.

No honors in math

A pop quiz: take one math test, have Grade 12 students from 22 countries write it, and score how well Canada does. Such a seemingly easy question has led to a multitude of answers from various newspapers. The Third International Mathematics and Science Study also included the United States and European countries. Canada was represented by Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and New Brunswick. Based on three tests—math, advanced math and physics—a total

Canada's long- and short-track speed skaters: elusive corporate sponsors

this sport." Gagnon, who weathered individual disappointments to share in the relay gold, is sponsored by General Mills, and was busy signing boxes of Cheerios graced with his image. "I grew up looking at athletes do not crowd-bait, but never thought I would be one," says the 25-year-old, laughing. "I feel that I have made it." Acland, the veteran of the team, has a more down-to-earth view of their fame. "People seem to forget about the Olympics pretty quickly," says the 21-year-old winner medallist in both Nagano and Lillehammer. "So you don't get your hopes up on sponsors." The majority of the team members are young enough to be contenders at Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2002—and that will give them at least one more go at the Olympic pot of accolade and corporate gold.

Play it again, Jean

When Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Finance Minister Paul Martin met privately earlier this month at 24 Sussex Drive, sales thought it was a hedge-hopping meeting—until they heard a deep booming sound. Chrétien was playing *Love Me Tender* on the trombone. He was given by the Liberal critics as a Christmas present. The Prime Minister reportedly hopes to play with a band of MPs at the party convention later this month. He might also consider turning up with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who happens to enjoy singing *Love Me Tender*. A diplomatic test.

Not fond of Bond



Gagnon, 'slapdilly'

Her may have been good enough for Her Majesty a Secret Service, but not for a laugh-out-loud Scots Country, 67, the Scottish actor who turned the fictional British spy James Bond into a global hero, had been asked for laughs on the New Year's Honours List. But Tanya Blair's Labour government decided to scuffle the occasion—precisely why remains a matter of debate. It may stem from Gagnon's support for the independent Scottish National Party, or that he lives as a loner in Spain and the Bahamas—or the 1985 interview with *Playboy* magazine in which he defended the occasional use of "an open-handed slap" in certain domestic situations. Last week, he publicly acknowledged the "slapdilly" of those remarks, but expressed anger that British politicians might be using them out of context. "What I don't like is for them everything's taken over," said Gagnon, who has been married to his wife, Michelle Riquelme, for 23 years. "When they dig up something from the past, about my violence towards women that I have attempted to answer in so many ways." The original Bond is living both states and stirred.



Reviving a musical hero

African Canadian pianist, composer, conductor and educator R. Nathaniel Dett was never a household name in Canada—but that may change. Born to what is now Niagara Falls, Ont., in 1882, Dett studied music at various U.S. universities, including Harvard. He went on to perform concerti for American presidents Herbert Hoover and

BEST-SELLERS

FICITION

1. *Shogun* (1)
2. *The Secret Garden* (1)
3. *The Secret Garden* (1)
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18. *The Secret Garden* (1)
19. *The Secret Garden* (1)
20. *The Secret Garden* (1)

Productive anarchy



George Woodcock looks at a mix who started the Delta Delta, Margaret Atwood and George Orwell as close friends.

Franklin D. Roosevelt before his death in 1943. Now, his name and musical works are being honored with the creation of the Nathaniel Dett Choral Society, the first black professional choral ensemble to Canada. "Usually, when you see a group of black singers, the general impression seems to be it's either a church or gospel choir," says Bernard Rhydym-Taylor, 44, the artistic director of the Toronto-based ensemble. "I think it is time we put together a choir that needs to explore the full range of choral music by Afro-centric composers." Rhydym-Taylor was joined at last week's launch by supporters and board members, including jazz singer Mally Johnson and jazz pianist Jon Sledge. The conditions will start in April 2002 for the 20-member choir. Their debut is scheduled at Dett's birthplace on Oct. 3. "The Ancestors claim Dett as their own," says Rhydym-Taylor. "But as a second-generation Canadian, his roots were here."

Passages



STAMPED! Former hockey coach Allen Gagnon, 64, of his membership in the Order of Canada, by an advisory council, in Ottawa, England, who is currently serving an 18-month sentence.

For Proud, is the first member to lose the Order in the Order's 51-year existence. One: Gen. Benito Lefebvre, who served the Order, has accepted the recommendation.

DIED: Singer Bob McBratney, 55, after a lengthy illness, in Toronto. McBratney was the lead singer of the 1970s Canadian rock band Lighthouse. In its prime, the group played at New York City's Carnegie Hall. After McBratney was fired from the band in 1973, he fell into heroin addiction and served a jail term in 1994 for robbing a drugstore.

DIED: Comedian Kenny Youngman, 91, of complications from the flu, in Manhattan. For 70 years, Youngman entertained audiences with one-liners, including his most famous: "Take my wife—please."

CURIOUS: Former junior hockey coach Graham Innes, 44, of infidelity at assisting a 15-year-old boy in 1971, in Michigan. Innes is currently serving a 3½-year sentence for sexually assaulting former NHL player Sheldon Kennedy when Kennedy was a junior player.

CHARGED: Ommen Tommy Lee, 35, with sexual abuse, child abuse and a firearms incident after his wife, Canadian actress Pamela Anderson Lee, 30, called police. At Matsig, Calif. County, B.C. native Anderson Lee, former star of the TV series *Baywatch*, suffered a broken, bloody nose in the altercation. She has since filed for divorce.

ARRESTED: Football players Dave Sheppard, 31, and Steve Babin, 23, for sexual assault and robbery, in Toronto. Sheppard, who currently plays for the New England Patriots, and Babin, a former Argonaut, were charged after a woman was assaulted at Toronto's Royal Hotel Hotel.

APPOINTED: The Hon. William Hoyt, 67, chief justice of the court of appeal of New Brunswick, is an environmentalist. He was appointed to investigate Ontario Indians' 1972 Borden tragedy, when 14 Irish Catholic demonstrators were killed by British troops. Hoyt will be one of three judges on the tribunal.

Martin's balancing act

BY ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH

There were still three weeks remaining before budget day when Finance Minister Paul Martin sat down one afternoon for a strategy session in his fifth-floor office in the Centre Block of the Parliament Buildings. For more than a month, Martin had known—since receiving government revenue totals at the end of December—that the first balanced budget in 29 years was now within reach. But he remained low-key about the prospect, telling aides and finance department officials that eliminating the deficit was "only one of our goals as a government." Now, he fussed and fretted over the draft of his budget speech from his favorite speechwriter, freelancer Larry Hagan. Slowly, Martin, pen in hand, tinkered with the copy, adding three phrases: "We will balance the budget next year. We will balance the budget the year after that. And, Mr. Speaker, we will balance the budget this year." At that point, Martin recalled last week, "I guess I realized for the first time the enormity of what we had done."

From a \$42-billion deficit in 1993 to hero and zero in five budgets, for Martin, last week marked a brief occasion for reflection—before moving on



to other goals. "The preparation for the next budget," he told Maclean's at week's end, "begins next week." In the meantime, predictably, his critics contended on the streets, and all the things they claimed Martin failed to achieve in his budget. The Reform party said he missed an opportunity to cut taxes; the NDP complained that he failed to help the country's jobless; financial analysts said that he seemed to sell more Canada's \$50-billion debt; and Ontario Premier Mike Harris bitterly criticized Ottawa for not allowing the provinces to share in the windfall by restoring previous cuts in transfer payments that provincial governments say affect the quality of education programs. But, responded Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in defense of his government's budget, "Mr. Harris has difficulties because he set targets for \$4 billion and now he can't balance the books."

Such arguments aside, no one could deny the right of either Martin or Chrétien to boast about the significance of last week's budget. The last time a federal government managed to balance Ottawa's books was, in Martin's terms, almost half a lifetime ago; the finance minister, now 50, was a 38-year-old businessman in 1969 when Edgar Benson tabled a deficit-free budget as a member of a Liberal government that also included Paul Martin Sr. and Jean Chrétien. And the back-to-back balanced budgets that Martin is promising would mark the first such time in almost half a century.

The business of getting to zero was a five-step process, beginning with Martin's first budget in 1994. In many ways, the real breakthrough came in the landmark 1995 budget, in which Martin announced plans to reduce government spending by more than \$55 billion over three years, while adding tax increases amounting to \$8.7 billion. "That," says Martin, "led us to where we are today." But the last five months of that process were just as laborious and grueling, ranging from Martin's first discussions with Chrétien and Liberal advisors after last June's election, and through a full and furious battle with opponents and debates within the finance department. Then, finally, came last week's unveiling.

As always, the most intensive part of the budget preparations began in October, as Martin connected the round of speeches and discussions that he has instituted as a way to assess the country's priorities. By then, the Liberals were expanding, because all promises made in last year's election campaign, to spend any money left over—after meeting the commitments made in June 1995 budget—on a mix of increased payments to existing social and economic programs, tax cuts and debt reduction. At that point, Martin was publicly forecasting a deficit of about \$18 billion for the current fiscal year—although most of his department officials were certain the final figure would be far below that.

At the same time, the finance department was awaiting the results of one of two budget-related polls it conducts every year to assess the mood of Canadians. The survey was requested by its consultants from the Ottawa-based Research & Marketing group—David Berke and Ellie Albion, both of whom have close ties to

Martin and have played key roles in previous budgets. They in turn, contracted out the field work to Toronto-based Pollara, headed by Liberal pollster Michael Morahan. Albion, an actress, whose figure was once Gianni Versace's chief for the CMC's *The National*, was responsible for assessing the best way the final elements of the next budget could be packaged and "sold" to the public. Berke, a shrewd former president of the Young Liberals with a deceptively laid-back nature, helped interpret poll results.

For the first time, Berke decided to try a polling technique involving "trade-off" questions to assess priorities. Traditionally, poll respondents are given a list of budget priorities—such as debt reduction and tax cuts—and asked to list them in order of importance, or rank the various options as "very important," "fairly important" or "not important." But such questions, the finance department decided, produced imperfect results. Instead, respondents were asked to choose between issues—whether debt reduction, for example, was more important than child-care tax credits or tax cuts. The overall findings, said one advisor, convinced Martin's team "that while debt reduction continually tops the list of Canadians' priorities, they don't mean that literally. What they really mean is that they want us to keep it in the back door, but not at the expense of creating some programs."

One of those programs was the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation, a centerpiece of the re-elected government's speech from the throne. Martin's office, in consultation with Chrétien, assembled an advisory board to offer ideas on the most efficient way of achieving the goal of making higher education more accessible to economically disadvantaged students. (As well, deputy finance minister Scott Clark pushed the idea of direct federal grants to registered education savings plans, designed to encourage parents to start saving for their children's higher education.) The Millennium Foundation was a pet program for the former Minister of Finance, while Martin had been trumpeting the need to encourage youngsters to improve their skills. As a cur-

ry in 1986, before he entered politics, he lectured frequently on the need for government to do so or risk having an entire "lost generation" of unemployable youth within a decade. High-quality education, he argued, "is the key to a large middle class—and the middle class is the backbone of the country." As December unfolded, Martin, his circle of advisors and finance department officials began preparing for a round of informal but crucial meetings. The minister, Clark and other participants would gather in the 25th-floor boardrooms of their downtown Ottawa office on O'Connor Street and ruthlessly debate policy issues while abiding by one protocol: "The idea," says one advisor to Martin, "is that someone can tell their boss that he's full of crap without fearing repercussions." Such meetings are, at shoulder's length, known as "CMHs," the acronym stands for "Colman, Martin and Others," referring to another deputy minister Marshall (Mackey) Colman, a bright and combative figure who first established the practice. Martin, notorious for his love of no-holds-barred policy debate, admired the sessions, which lasted up to five hours. In January, they extended into weekends.

As 1997 neared its close, the original group of about 30 people descended to a smaller circle as the list of items under discussion shrank. Regular members of the group, along with Martin and deputy minister Clark, included assistant deputy minister Dan Thompson, Alberta Minister Martin Cauchon, Ontario Minister Terry Velen, senior policy adviser Ruth Thorpe, and several others

A behind-the-scenes look at a dramatic budget

The finance minister has zero in five budgets

director Scott Rudin—a former *Turntable* employee—and Claude Despins, Martin's senior adviser on Quebec.

But the key figure, after Martin and Clark, was Martin's executive assistant and most trusted adviser, Terrie O'Leary. A distinctive chain-smoker with a rapid-fire manner of speaking, O'Leary is renowned for several qualities—including her devoted loyalty to Martin and her willingness to speak to him in terms so blunt they often stun outsiders. She provided balance and a bridge between the whims of Liberalism's maverick and the more carefully negotiated discussions were held in small groups on an impromptu basis. People such as Bérle and Abbott would arrive early for meetings, head to O'Leary's office to chat, and find Martin sitting there, holding court to a coach with one leg draped casually over the side.

For key meetings, Christian sent his most senior adviser and longtime trust-the-chapter Editor Guido, and sometimes his communications director, Peter Donolo. Interestingly, as the budget date loomed, Martin and Christian talked on the phone, or Martin would slip the Prime Minister a note while the two were in the House of Commons and arrange to see him after their discussion. This was not.

At the O'Connor Street offices, there was often another surprise visitor—a raised-lid terror and rascal, a greyhound puppy named Speaker, who became known as "The Budget Dog." There he presided over the most sacred space: one in which he sat and growled about howling him at home, brought Speaker to the office on many occasions. Although Speaker generally dozed through meetings, he took a particular dislike to Martin, and often trotted around the office after him—sometimes leaving behind his loud reminders of his presence. "This damn dog," Martin often remarked with pettily fierce irritation, "is no bigger than a cat."

Within the cabinet, the common devotion of previous years to budget reduction had, predictably, waned. Through the fall and into January, Martin increasingly had to fend off demands for more money from cabinet colleagues. In almost every case, his answer was the same: "If you can tell me exactly what you'll do with the money, let's talk—but don't come and just ask for cash without any particular plan." Some debates were particularly difficult. Health Minister Allan Rock, who as party leader was one of Martin's closest allies in cabinet, felt heavy pressure from his officials to ask for more money to launch new but unspecified programs. As well, the provinces were pushing for increased funding for medicare. Martin took a hard line on both issues. Although Martin and Rock trusted last week that relations between them are good, acquaintances on each side tell a different story.

In December, figures showed the government was about to register its largest one-month surplus in January—\$3.8 billion. This came on top of previous calculations putting revenue well ahead of projections. Boosted by those numbers, Martin went home to Myscenie for Christmas. An avid reader whose favorite books often relate to his possession of politics and economics, he read

biographies of former British prime ministers Benjamin Disraeli and William Gladstone, as well as historian Charles Platt Mason's new book, 1987: *How the Fathers Made a Deal*, on the making of Confederation.

When Martin returned to Ottawa in the first week of January, it was clear he would be able to balance the budget. But other questions remained, such as how to justify any benefits the government would be handing out. After urging from Martin, who wanted the money spent on education, Martin decided that the final package for the Millennium Fund should be increased from \$3 billion to \$2.5 billion. Another suggestion was to cut a percentage point off the seven per cent Goods and Services Tax. But that option was quickly rejected, among other things, the government would lose

about \$2.6 billion in annual revenue. And Martin particularly wanted to do for his break aimed directly at lower-income Canadians—which he felt he did. Another reason for rejecting the GST idea, though Martin did not like to admit it, was unwillingness in the part of the Liberals to remind Canadians of the GST—which Christian had promised to scrap. "Why" reasoned our adviser, "bring up something everyone is mad at you for?"

In the end, the result was a rather laudably fiscal blueprint that, with its mix of small programs, offered a little something for nearly everyone—although nothing major beyond the Millennium Fund. But Martin spent in the budget of which he is "in control"—alongside the rest of 1995. The reason, he says, is the focus is put on education, and preparing for the future. "The actions of my father and his cabinet colleagues in the 1960s in government set the stage for most events of the past 30 years," he notes. "The actions of the next three to 10 years will do the same for Canada. Moreover, Martin, as always, insists that his father—who helped introduce many of the country's existing social programs—would be pleased by his son's achievement. 'My dad,' says Martin, 'was the kind of reasonable father who understood that if you want to accomplish things for the guy on Main Street, you cannot be beholden to the money people on Wall Street.'"

As always, the final fine-tuning of the budget continued right up to 72 hours before its presentation—when Martin was scheduled to attend a weekend meeting of international finance ministers in London. By then, he and most of his staff knew the details of the 275-page Budget Plus so well that they could quote many paragraphs and charts from memory. But because of Martin's trip, the first time in the budgets, he did not conduct the more hours of promising rebuttals and restatements of the speech that he normally stages at home in front of his wife, Sheila. This time, she heard the speech for the first time, along with most other Canadians, when her husband rose in the House of Commons as he set in the victor's gallery above "Sheila," recalled Martin with a smile. "I said that it was the first time she actually enjoyed hearing the speech—because, for once, she didn't have to endure it as many bloody times before." Perhaps, as well, her enjoyment was enhanced by the fact that her husband was making history. □

Modest proposals

Beyond the historic feat of closing the federal deficit, Finance Minister Paul Martin's 50th budget offers a slim package of spending, tax and debt-reduction measures. Highlights:

- New spending is concentrated on education. The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation will provide 150,000 students with grants worth up to \$3,000 a year at a one-time cost to Ottawa of \$2.5 billion. Other measures include giving Canadians grants of 20 per cent on the first \$2,000 of annual contributions to registered education savings plans for their children.
- Tax relief is targeted to lower-income Canadians. Basic deductions for those earning less than \$20,000 will be increased by \$500, removing almost 400,000 people from the federal tax rolls and reducing taxes for another 4.6 million. And the three-per-cent "temporary" surtax—introduced in 1986—will be eliminated for those earning up to \$50,000 and reduced for those turning up to \$65,000.
- The massive \$58.3 billion national debt will decrease by \$3 billion—its first downward turn in 29 years.



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McDonald told *Maclean's* "Once again, British Columbia will have to go it alone." Quebec anticipates a 1998-1999 deficit of \$5.2 billion—with a balanced budget in the following year. Harris cautiously noted that he is keen to go to the polls until Ontario's deficit—about \$5.5 billion in 1997-1998—has disappeared, although Ontario's refusal to raise transfer rates makes it impossible to meet that goal by 2000-2001, as he had hoped. "We are struggling with this federal government just to balance our books," there and

The battle between Ottawa and the provinces could also mark the start of several years of seriously escalating confrontations that can only hurt individual Canadians. Martin is well aware of the danger: partly to postpone any potential battle, he based his 1998-1999 budget on growth rates that were well below most economic predictions—and interest rates that were well above most forecasts. As a result, his budget

is strictly balanced—at \$7.6 billion in the black (including the government's \$3 billion contingency fund), as Bank of Montreal economist O'Neill predicts. But the province will be aware of that sleight of hand, and equally aware that Ottawa is now talking about another hefty, badly expensive federal program to cover the costs of patient home care—which will again intrude into provincial jurisdiction. Unless Ottawa works closely with the provinces to ensure that home-care programs (initially with provincial hospitals, doctors and staff) are in place, Queen's University economist Tom Courchay points out that provinces could retaliate by "upgrading" their programs they could allow hard-pressed universities to raise tuition fees, for example, because Ottawa has ensured that needy students have funds through the millennium foundation. "The problem is that there is a common area of anxiety out there that both levels are trying to spend on and tax



Edmonton hospitals increased pressure for more funding

Perry, research associate at The Canadian Tax Foundation. "When someone sits down at the dining room table next April, it will be terrible to figure out what you are paying—and why."

Such varying and wide-ranging pressures mean that surpluses will be almost as hard for the federal government to hand over the coming years as its previous governing fight against the deficit. The evening star has had a hard time, Martin said in an aside during a trip to a local Ottawa diner at 10:00 p.m. for a hot-burger and fries. One by one, his fellow diners had politely approached his table to offer congratulations. Such honeyed words may mark a rare calm in a stream of mounting pleas—and threats.

With JENNIFER HUNTER in Vancouver and
BRENDA BRUNSWICK in Montreal

'A wonderful problem to have'

The last time anyone could remember the federal government taking on more money than it spent, *Maclean's* was in high, newsmagazine. For a generation, persistent and mounting budget deficits had been the order of the day. Eventually government became so burdened by red ink that almost everyone agreed it was time to cut, cut and cut some more. And then, quicker than even the experts had predicted, the deficit melted away. A change, new debate broke out: how to spend the surplus.

Sound familiar? It could apply to Ottawa, but it is also the story of Washington's three-decade long struggle to get its fiscal house in order. The U.S. federal budget was last balanced in 1969, under President Richard Nixon. Ever since, through the inflationary 1970s, the arms race of the 1980s and the recession of the early 1990s, Washington went deeper and deeper into the red—with

its deficit peaking at a staggering \$410 billion in 1992. The budget proposal that President Bill Clinton presented on Feb. 2 turns all that around. For the next fiscal year, which begins this October and runs through September, 1999, it projects a tiny surplus of \$13.5 billion on total spending of \$2.4 trillion. Further, it forecasts surpluses totaling \$1.4 trillion over the next decade—the equivalent of the so-called debt dividend that Finance Minister Paul Martin has promised to Canadians.

The American deficit, like the Canadian, has disappeared quicker than expected. (As recently as last August, the budget deal that Clinton eventually reached with the Republican-controlled Congress predicted a balanced budget only by the year 2002.) The reason, like, are similar. A booming economy has poured money into government coffers, even as spending has been slashed on such safety-net programs

as unemployment insurance. And the end of the Cold War allowed the United States to lower military spending from 26 per cent of its budget in 1969 to just 15 per cent now.

Politically the end of deficits has allowed Clinton to put forward a raft of new proposals, including funding for 100,000 new teachers and tax credits for child care—paid for out of new revenue from higher taxes on tobacco. He argues that surpluses should first be put aside to shore up the American social security system, which faces strains as the baby-boom generation starts to retire after 2010. Republicans, though, are badly divided over what to do with the unexpected windfall. A low-spend, low-spending, some want to pay down the national debt at \$7.5 trillion, and many favor cutting taxes. But the White House fears months of squabbling before a final budget deal is reached. But as Senator Max Baucus, a Democrat from Montana, put it last week: "It's a wonderful problem to have."

ANDREW PHILLIPS in Washington

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Harkening back to sunnier days

Costly initiatives in an era giddy with promise

BY JOHN GEDDES

The baby boom generation likes to look back on it as a time of exhilarating upheaval. But the melody Canadians were humming in 1970, the last time a federal government ended its fiscal year with balanced books, was Anne Murray's *Sweeter*—not exactly an anthem of revolution. This year, as Ottawa's deficit finally disappears again, another Nova Scotian singer has his bit of the moment. The day after Paul Martin tabled his budget last week, Sarah McLachlan bumped the finance minister's face off the front pages by winning the best female pop vocal Grammy for her song *Building a Mystery*. And just as it is tempting to hear in Murray's talking about things away in spring something of the innocence of those earlier times, McLachlan's melancholy lyrics seem to come straight out of an era less inclined to optimism. "Can you look out the window," she sings cynically to a lover, "without your shadow getting in the way?"

Martin certainly sounds as if he is harkening back to sunnier days. Having wiped out the deficit, the finance minister is predicting a return to the sort of sustained strong economic growth that Canada enjoyed in the 1950s and 1960s. If he expects Canadians to share in that unclouded vision, though, he is asking for a dramatic change from the more skeptical outlook that has set in during the past three decades. After all, the balanced budget in the fiscal year 1969-1970 turned out to be the last hurrah of the postwar boom. It was followed by punishing inflation, rising tax burdens and swelling government debt. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, there was the notion of inflation opportunism, says Allen Gregg, president of the polling firm The Strategic Counsel. "Canadians today believe progress isn't inevitable—in fact, the prospect of things getting worse are as likely as the prospects of things getting better."

Such a jaded perspective would have been hard to envisage up back when then Finance Minister Edgar Benson was tabling his balanced budget in the spring of 1969. It was a year almost giddy with promise—bathed in the afterglow of Pierre Trudeau's election in 1968. In the summer after Benson delivered his goodnews fiscal plan, Trudeau, his closest aides and some trusted cabinet ministers headed to Stratford, Ont., for a few days of policy brainstorming, broken by theatre outings and the occasional drink. That was the way it was a then, thoughtless, culturally astute prime minister setting the tone. A wave of revision permeated the Liberal ranks as they considered the reforms of the 1960s, pouring more money into everything from seniors pensions to universal health care. "It was the period when we created the social safety net that Canadians use to define what their values mean," recalls Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray, who first entered cabinet in 1969.

It turned out the government could not pay for what it was promising. Before the mid-1970s, Canada's economy had steadily produced new jobs, along with higher incomes. Barking to angle



tax revenues, Ottawa plunged ahead with a raft of costly initiatives. One of the most expensive was introducing the tax system to inflation. The aim was to prevent taxpayers from losing out by being lifted into higher brackets as inflation pumped up their incomes without really improving their living standards. Fair enough, but it also meant that the federal tax had remained static—even as Ottawa's payments increased because social programs like Old Age Security were also adjusted for inflation, as were federal transfers to the provinces for health, education and welfare. Meanwhile, Ottawa kept expanding into areas like regional development. The economy failed to support Liberal ambitions. "Productivity rose to a scorching halt in the late 1970s," says one veteran finance department official. "Inflation took off like crazy and the economy slowed and then basically stopped on a dime—the 1981 recession."

With the benefit of hindsight, some events of 1989 seem like harbingers of the financial unraveling that lay ahead. Just two days before Benson tabled his budget, the National Arts Centre

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BECAUSE IT'S

opened in Ottawa. It cost \$46.4 million in 1968 dollars—compared with the \$9 billion originally estimated. But nobody was paying much attention to the bottom line—there were so many more in-breeding distractions. Rusty Staub, the new Montreal Expos' beloved Le Grand Orange, was hitting .302 with 29 homers. Abortion and homosexuality laws were being liberalized. The Concord was scoring for the first time—like a paper airplane for government. A man walked on the moon. And, surprise, who could worry about dollars and cents in a nation where a le massacre at Victoria's Swiss Restaurant, named British Columbia's best eatery that year by *Atkins*, could be had for \$3.95?

Apologists argue that big things were being accomplished while Ottawa was embarking on the path that would lead it deep into debt. But the record is mixed. Trudeau's listed his top three priorities in

1970 as correcting regional disparities, solving what he called the "French-English language problem," and promoting economic growth. The department of regional economic expansion has government created in 1969 is now a memory. Its legacy of regional industrial subsidies continues, but high unemployment has persisted in the late-1970s regions, especially the Atlantic provinces and Quebec. While the Official Languages Act, also of 1969, succeeded in making French a language of the federal government as never before, Quebec's future in Canada remains uncertain. As for the economy, Canada's gross domestic product grew by five per cent over 12 times from 1950 to 1974, but has topped five per cent in only three years since then.

Even with the return of black ink to the federal balance sheet, grand visions remain out of style these days in Ottawa. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's incrementalist approach dovetails comfortably with the modest expectations of government that Canadians were left with after the schismatic disillusionment of the 1970s and 1980s. "In this conservative, Christian, as a perfect leader," says Griggs. "He is very happy to roll along and manage things."

Martin seems only slightly more inclined to reach for loftier goals. Back in 1968, he was a young trouble-shooter in Paul Desmarais's Power Corp. corporate retreats, building expertise by putting up his father's companies back on a solid financial footing—a pattern that seems to have followed him into public life. The core theme of Martin's latest budget is not about ambitious new programs. Instead, he and Chrétien highlight financial cash to parents trying to pay for their kids' education after high school. And Martin sacrificed his breaks for lower-income earners—with a tantalizing promise of wider tax relief for middle-income Canadians on federal surpluses grow in the next few years.

If Martin's message doesn't sound much like an echo of the summer of 1968, it is not recent to it. Looking back further—to the austere lean times of the 1950s and 1960s—Martin may be almost indistinguishable with an earlier generation of legendary policymakers. James Shipy, the brilliant finance minister who set the economy on course for the prosperity that followed the Second

World War was a determined second-story C. D. Howe. His Martin's business-as-usual politics, focused in the 1950s on developing key industries like steel, a best fit for postwar Martin's interest in fostering the information-technology sector today.

And if the era of Shipy and Howe is the model for the new balanced-budget age, then the right sound track might not be supplied by Sarah McLachlan after all, but by another Canadian who made an appearance at last week's *Graceland*—Guns N' Roses. The rock giants and singer from Nazareth, B.C., kind of close her current, acclaimed album of retro swing with *That Old Feeling*—somehow making it sound at once nostalgic and contemporary. It is a trick Martin may want to emulate as he bids to put the deficit decades to rest—and to make prosperity seem possible again for the new millennium. ■

Last of the penny-pinchers



Benson's 20-year-old achievement

"After a lengthy period of difficulty we are now getting a better grip on the situation and we will be able to bring more effective control."

It was, even by the lowly standards of Canadian budget day speeches, a real answer. How even older Benson to know that the document he signed on June 3, 1955, would become a lasting caution to times? "I'm now worried about the deficit back then for the simple reason that so many of us would ever spend money until they had it," recalled the last Canadian finance minister to balance a budget. An old pro. Liberal wildfire, including in a little retrospective booklet? Benson, an accountant who represented the Ontario riding of Kingston and the Islands, readily admits that staying in the black was easier then with the benefit of a strong Canadian

dollar and a vibrant economy. And even though he posted deficits in his next two budgets, no one could accuse the minister who introduced the 1972 capital gains tax of leaving the bottom line.

The big cry in the months leading up to the 1969 budget: index the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security and other social programs adopted by Liberal governments during the 1960s to the inflation rate. "I'm saying those means without indexing the revenue side meant the cost was going to go up tremendously," Benson, now 74, told *Maclean's* from his condominium in Hull, Que., across the Ottawa River from Parliament Hill. "So I resisted." The trouble, in Benson's view, is that his successor John Turner did not. Instead, the future prime minister tied pensions to inflation without a corresponding hike in taxes. The result: while revenues did almost double between Benson's final budget in 1971-1972 and Turner's last effort four years later, the deficit tripled, ballooning to \$6.2 billion. At 2.6 per cent of federal spending, it was the first of the huge annual deficits that helped accelerate the country's long, costly slide into debt, which Paul Martin hoped to reverse with his historic announcement last week.

After Benson left politics in 1972, he spent a decade as president of the Canadian Transport Commission, then did a three-year stint as Canada's ambassador to Ireland before retiring in 1985. Nowadays, he dabbles in real estate, visits his nine grandchildren and one grand-grandchild, and makes regular trips to Europe with his third wife, Ottawa lawyer Mary Jane Burke. "The Prime Minister and Paul Martin are doing a great job," he signed an budget day. "The nation can only hope that this time a balanced budget, really does make a hopeful new start."

JOHN DUMONT in Ottawa

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PROBING A TEEN SUICIDE

The Ontario coroner's office launched an inquiry into the Dec. 11 suicide of Kenneth Au-Yang, 17, who attended the St. Michael's Choir School in Toronto. Headed by Dr. William Lucas, the inquiry will also examine teen suicides in general. An first reported in the Feb. 2 issue of *Maclean's*, Au-Yang jumped off a ledge after school officials and an off-duty policeman questioned him about a cyberbully prank.

THE BATTLE OVER QUEBEC

Federal Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion and Treasury Board president Marcel Masse warned Quebec that Ottawa will actively defend unity during the province's coming election, expected as early as the spring. Premier Lucien Bouchard said Ottawa is in a state of "extreme panic." Recent polls show the Parti Québécois government with a comfortable lead over the opposition Liberals.

HOSPITAL CRUNCH

Most elective surgery in Edmonton-area hospitals was cancelled to free beds and ease the strain on medical staff left reeling from weeks of busy emergency wards and intensive-care units. At one point last week, more than 80 people were waiting for beds in the area's five emergency wards. Health Minister Halvar Jonsson, defending recent funding cuts, said it was not the province's job to "interchange" the hospitals.

MOTHER INVESTIGATED

Police in Windsor, Ont., charged Lorraine Pearce with the suspected finger murder after 29-month-old boy, Taylor Harris, who died last month. Pearce, 21, pleaded not guilty. Police also opened an investigation into the 1980 death of Pearce's five-month-old boy, Antonio. Investigators have heard unconfirmed allegations that Pearce had a third infant that died mysteriously last year.

NAMING HIV CARRIERS

As of May, Alberta doctors will have to tell regional health officials the names of patients infected with HIV, the virus linked to AIDS. Public health labs that test for the virus will also be required to report all HIV cases. The province says the reports will allow for a better understanding of the disease. Some AIDS groups warned that people might not get tested out of fear for their privacy.



NOT ENOUGH: The three surviving Dionne quintuplets—Annette, Cecile and Yvonne—rejected Ontario Premier Mike Harris's compensation offer of \$2,000 a month each for life. The sisters, aged 62, want the money they say was "stolen" from a trust fund held for them by the government. (One accounting firm estimated their loss at close to \$32 million.) Harris said the Dionnes will get the \$6,000 a year. After making three weeks of the state in 1934, Ontario put the quintuplets on display at a theme park called Quindoo, near North Bay. "All we want is restitution," Cecile said. "We are not asking for one cent for the abuse."

Backtracking on immigration

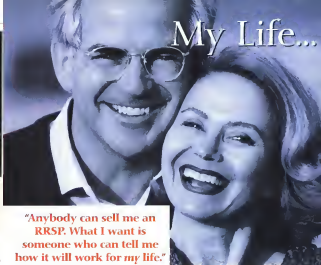
Facing a public outcry, Immigration Minister Lucienne Robillard backs a cross-country tour in Vancouver late last week by saying Ottawa is not committed to the idea that future immigrants to Canada will have to speak either French or English. Reversing a previous stance in special use of the country's official languages was proposed in a report last January as part of 172 recommendations for overhauling immigration policies. Other recommendations included tightening rules for Canadians who sponsor immigrants, stricter criteria on granting citizenship and overhauling the immigration officer program. "This is not a report from the government,"

Robillard said. "This is a report from three independent consultants. I am personally concerned about the fact that only one criterion will disqualify somebody to come to Canada."

Robillard plans to convene public opinion in five cities by March 31. Although Vancouver protesters booed the minister, she defended the report as the start of "informed discussion." More than 90 immigrant groups in Vancouver asked to be heard by Robillard, but her office limited the number to 25. "They are not willing to listen to us," said Florence Agnew, a representative of the Toronto-based International Federation of Iranian Refugees. "Why should we believe them?"

A loss for the families of Bernardo's victims

The families of Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffy lost their bid for a blanket ban on courtroom speculators viewing videotapes showing the teenagers being sexually assaulted by Paul Bernardo. The Ontario Court of Appeal said judges should continue exercising their own discretion when deciding whether the public should see child pornography as evidence in court. At Bernardo's 1997 trial, where he was convicted of murdering the two girls, the presiding judge permitted speculators to hear, but not see, the videotapes. Debbie Mahaffy, Leslie's mother, said the families will appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.



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People

Edited by
TANYA DAVIES

Glory at the Grammys

Canadian women singers again figured among Grammy royalty last week when **Sarah McLachlan** won the award for best female pop vocal performance and **Olivia's Alessia Morissette** won for best long-form video. Victorious for her song *Building a Mystery*, McLachlan, 30, was radiant as she accepted her gramophone-shaped award. "What a shock," said the first-time winner. "I'm so nervous all of a sudden." Afterwards, she performed the song with fellow Grammy winners **Shawn Colvin** and **Peabo Bryson**. McLachlan won a second award for best pop instrumental for the song *Last Dance*. The Halifax-born singer, who lives in Vancouver with her husband and drummer, **Andrew Wood**, has procured an international reputation beyond her music in the past year as founder of the alternate music festival *EMMA Fair*.

The big winner of the night was U.S. singer **Bob Dylan**, who won three awards, including the coveted album of the year for *Time Out of Mind*. Other Grammy-winning Canadians were Toronto-based **Leon Redbone**, 42, who sang on the best opera recording, and **Ned Roubenoff**, 58, a folklore professor at Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld., for best album notes. Slipped out of contention: **Cliff Richard** (who won the award last year), **Bryan Adams**, **Diana Krall**, **Lois Jolene Hotz** and pop players **John Cusack** and three-time winner **Walter Dinklage**.



McLachlan performing & winning her first Canadian Grammy

Fun with some friends

For fans of Canadian humor, the new film *The Wrong Guy* provides a rare opportunity to catch several generations of comics at work. The movie stars **Dave Foley**, Toronto-born star of the hit NBC sitcom *NewsRadio*, as a dim-witted executive who, ahead of time, believes he did not murder his boss, gone on the lam, and knowing that the real killer (**John Farrow**) was a Canadian, including his in-film father the Hillbilly artist **Kenn McEwen** and Mark McEwen as well as **Joe Flaherty** (SCTV) and **Dan Riechers** (The Frontiers). But Foley, who co-wrote and co-produced the film, says nobody was cast on the basis of their nationality. "When it came down to think about 'Who do we want to have as this?' these are the people who came to mind," Foley adds. However, that it was a conscious decision to hire director **David Steinberg**, 55, the former *Weekend Update* star and a regular on *Johnny Carson's Tonight Show*—second only to **Bob Hope** in number of appearances. "It was weird interviewing Steinberg for a job," says Foley. "I'd grown up watching him and never thought I'd be in that position."



Foley: generations of comics

Portrait of an artist

There is a tradition in Canadian pop music of dedicating albums to renowned painters. **The Rhinoceroses** recorded *Music Inspired by the Group of Seven*, and now Vancouver singer-songwriter **Veda Hille**, 36, has weighed in with *Here Is a Picture* (Songs for B. Carr), a new album based on celebrated B.C. artist **Emily Carr**. Hille, 39, was commissioned by Macmillan Music to write a score for a chorale project about Carr's life. While research was her subject, Hille discovered a fondness for Carr's writings. "It was through the writing that I found my relationship with Carr," says Hille, about the landscape painter who died in 1945 at age 74. Describing most of the lyrics as a mix of past and present, Hille relates some of the despair of the dreary artist. "I don't know how many people really know what she was like," says Hille, who, with her band, *The Rhinoceroses*, is currently touring Canada. "She was a very passionate and intense person."

WORLD

support, but made it clear that if Iraq does not allow the first to be fully implemented—what he labeled “the big if”—the United States reserves the right to respond “in a time, place and manner of our choosing.” Least there be any doubt about what that means, Clinton ordered the American armada of 36,000 troops, three aircraft carriers and 300 warships to stay in the Gulf. Canada’s modest contribution—the Israeli 30MCS Tanios, and two Hercules in tanking planes—arrived in the region last week and

are to stay for three months. The planes will be based in Kuwait.


Despite the second guessing in Washington, the accord represents by far the most significant accomplishment of Annan’s 14-month tenure as secretary general—as well as a much-needed boost for the United Nations. When he took over on Jan. 1, 1995, the organization was badly diminished. The United States had just kicked out his predecessor, Boutros Boutros Ghali of Egypt. Annan, a 58-year-old career UN official from

Ghana, came in with Washington’s explicit backing—a decidedly mixed blessing. He spent most of last year working on internal reforms, ready to resign the United Nations’ American critics who say the organization must get its house in order before Washington pays the \$1.4 billion it owes in back dues. Faced with such deep suspicion from its most powerful member, the United Nations looked hasty.


Annan’s breeched an iron gate the United Nations at center stage for the first time in years. He clearly enjoys more confidence from Washington than did other secretaries general. Allright, in fact, effectively engineered his appointment, while she was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. And those who know Annan say his understated manner should not be mistaken for weakness. A senior official at the United Nations pointed out last week that as head of the organization’s perchance last in the early ‘90s, Annan dealt with “all the world characters” in such blood-soaked trouble spots as Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda—as well as Iraq itself after the Gulf War. “This is not a naive guy we’ve got here,” said the official.

Annan himself asked last week if a quiet, calm man like him if he “tough enough” to deal with Saddam, replied: “It’s the inner strength that counts.” Mark Malloch Brown, who worked closely with Annan at the United Nations for much of the past 20 years and is now vice-president of the World Bank in Washington, admiringly calls him “a very cool customer—always sticking to his calmness and discipline.” Annan, adds Malloch Brown, is a “very strategic negotiator, he knows when to push on one side, and when to push on the other.” The result in Baghdad, says Stephen Lewis, Canadian ambassador to the United Nations in the mid-1990s and now deputy executive director of UNICEF in New York, was a victory for the arms-banned organization at a time when it needs one. “He has given the United Nations a voice again,” said Lewis. “Now perhaps the storm and the mockery and the denunciations will stop.”

Probably not—at least in Washington, where the United Nations is often viewed as at best irrelevant, at worst an impediment to pursuing American interests abroad. In fact, the debate in the U.S. capital is increasingly about whether to take a much more aggressive stance against Saddam. Republicans, in particular, are pushing Clinton to devise plans to undermine his regime or even oust him from power. Leaked details appeared last week of an ambitious CIA plan for sabotage and subversion against Saddam, by supporting his opponents inside Iraq and encouraging other Iraq leaders to rebel against him. Most an allyan doubt that would be effective—but the message was clear: If Saddam fails to live up to the latest agreement, he will not get another chance to duck the punch from Washington. □



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WORLD UNITED STATES

The rage of El Niño

Terror twisters and killer rains batter Americans

Mick Price and his fiancée, Jennifer Johnson, had heard the urgent tornado warnings broadcast across central Florida. So they knew how dangerous the night had become when they were awakened by an ominous rumble. It quickly grew to a roar, and as a firecracker would be going to shake their trailer like a top, Price, 34, obeyed Johnson, 34, into a tiny closet. She tried to pull him in, but she felt his hand slip away as the trailer shattered their trailer and sucked Price up into the machine. He was later found dead six metres from the devastated home in Daytona Beach, near a large tree that had been swept like a toothpick. "One minute I was holding his hand, and then he was gone," said Johnson later as she sat on a friend's sofa clutching a teddy bear. "Why did I lose?"

That was a question hundreds of thousands of fellow Americans as they staggered through the rubble. On Feb. 24 at about 1 a.m., at least eight killer tornadoes ripped across central Florida, packing winds of 300 km an hour. They touched down in the popular Orlando and Daytona Beach tourist areas, narrowly missing Walt Disney World and tearing apart hundreds of homes. At least 38 people died, making it the deadliest storm in the state's history.

The ferocity of the latest was blamed on El Niño, the massive surge of warm water that periodically moves east across the Pacific to Peru and turns the world's climate patterns upside down. So far this winter, El Niño has been blamed for 98 deaths in the United States and \$7.5 billion in damages, most of it in California, which has been hit by deadly winter-spring rain storms. And even as President Bill Clinton tossed the destruc-

tion in central Florida, experts expected the phenomenon to terrorize the region again. "The storms are lining up like jack-o'-lanterns in the torrid," said David Phillips, Environment Canada's senior climatologist. "They are coming in every 48 hours."

Bob Butler, a cousin of Toronto and Denver



Survivors in Kissimmee, Florida, Calif., after the storm



outfitter for baseball's Blue Jays, had been trying not for the Houston Astros at a camp south of Orlando near the town of Kissimmee. He was staying in a condominium with his girlfriend, where they too listened as the tornadoes blew down on them. "All he'll break loose," recalled Butler. "We huddled in the closet. We have never been that scared as our whole lives." Others were

not as lucky. The winds were so strong that they sucked an 18-month-old boy from the arms of his father. The child was found dead later that day. The storm also killed five members of one family hunkered in the attic, then dropped four of them to their deaths near their trailer. The only one to survive was five-year-old Ashley Davis, who was found wedged in nearby woods despite a broken leg and a ruptured spleen.

Near Butler's condo, the Ponderosa trailer court in Kissimmee was reduced to a twisted mass of cars and recreational vehicles. One of the few homes to survive belonged to Ray and Hilda Crowe of Grand Bend, Ont., who were married last year and spending their first winter together in a tiny 10-metre trailer. "There was beautiful breeze,"

recalled 65-year-old Hilda Crowe. "Then I heard a whoosh. It sounded like a train getting louder and louder." They dove to the floor and remained there until it stopped shaking. "It lasted a minute," she said, "but it seemed like an hour."

When they stepped outside, they found one of their neighbours desperately seeking help. The man's wife and two toddlers were trapped inside a collapsed recreational vehicle. "His wife had her arms wrapped around the two children," said Ray Crowe. "So I found a flashlight and helped get them out." But a new friend that Crowe had planned to go fishing with had vanished. "I heard sound," said Crowe. "He's gone."

Weather forecasters are now trying to guess where El Niño will strike next. Phillips said the polar jet stream, normally rooted in the Arctic, has split in half, with one leg reaching down to the southern United States. As it moves over the Pacific, it picks up moisture and dumps it on California, where so many people died in flooding and mud slides last week. The storms then continue eastward, where they pick up speed and spawn deadly tornadoes in Florida. The month-up weather patterns have also led to heat waves in Central America, drought in parts of Asia, January's devastating ice storms in eastern Canada and unseasonably warm February weather in much of the country. Experts have said this year's El Niño is the strongest ever studied and Phillips believes it will continue well into the spring. "The El Niño is still intact," he said. "It is still going to be a force." And while it should be gone by next winter, Ray and Hilda Crowe have decided not to risk another tornado. "Next year," said Hilda, "we're going to Mexico."

TOM FENNELLS and AL ROSSIGNOL
in Kissimmee

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World NOTES

MOSSAD SPY CAUGHT

Israel's Mossad intelligence agency is again mired in controversy following the arrest of a suspected Israeli agent in a failed attempt to bug a private apartment. On Feb. 13, Swiss police caught five Israelis on the scene—reportedly an attempt to bug a member of Lebanon's militant Islamic group Hezbollah—but released four for lack of evidence. Shortly before the news broke last week, Mossad chief Danny Yatom resigned over the bungled attempt by Israeli agents using Canadian passports to assassinate an Islamic militant in Jordan. Israeli analysts suspected the militant in Switzerland was linked to Yatom's out.

ATTACKING STARR

In a worsening war of words, a White House aide blamed press secretary Katherine Starr's team for questioning him over info he had with the media. Anti-Security Executive said Starr, who is investigating President Bill Clinton's alleged affair with a White House intern, wanted to know if he had spread negative reports about Starr's staff.

KIM'S CHALLENGE

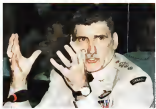
Former president Kim Dae Jung, 74, was sworn in as South Korea's president amid the release of 1,800 doves—a signal of peace to North Korea. Kim has vowed to modernize the devastated economy and reform scandal-ridden political institutions. But he faces a trial by fire analysis and a series of financial challenges in March could provide a new currency crisis.

LOCKERBIE RULING

In a blow to the United States and Britain, the international Court of Justice said it has jurisdiction in a dispute over the trial of two Libyans wanted in the bombing of Pan American Flight 103 over Scotland in 1988, which killed 270 people. Washington and London have demanded extradition of the pair, which Libya has challenged. The interim ruling means the world court may later decide where the trial takes place.

ORGAN CHARGE DENIED

China denied claims that it is involved in the sale of organs harvested from executed prisoners. The statement comes after two Greenpeace activists charged in New York City with trying to sell kidneys, livers and lungs they said were removed from dead prisoners.



Dallaire testifies at Arusha: 'we are all responsible for the genocide'

A general's anguish

Ever since he left Rwanda in 1994, Canada's Maj. Gen. Roméo Dallaire has spoken, often emotionally, about how his 15-month UN peacekeeping operation could have prevented much of the genocide if he had been better equipped. Last week, as it comes, Dallaire brought that passage to the international stage, in a day of testimony at the United Nations' Rwanda war crimes tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania. He said if he had had 5,000 troops with a mandate to intervene, they could

have saved "hundreds of thousands of lives." Up to 800,000 people, mostly Tutsis, were killed by rampaging Hutus beginning in April 1994. Dallaire initially had a force of 2,500, which the Security Council later reduced to 450 after a Belgian contingent lost 10 soldiers in a massacre. But he said while it is easy to blame the United Nations, "the United Nations is us—all of us. If the United Nations didn't intervene, this means that by extension we are all responsible for the genocide." Then he used a threat to wipe tears from his eyes.

Under an agreement with the tribunal, Dallaire was not permitted to discuss his communications with superiors at UN peacekeeping headquarters in New York City, who included Kofi Annan, now UN secretary general, and Lt. Gen. Maurice Baril, now Canada's chief of defense staff. Dallaire is widely expected to have sent a detailed memo in January 1994, predicting genocide, but no action resulted. In Arusha, Dallaire will report he may have tentatively agreed it was, he said, very difficult. "Maybe with time, it will hurt less."

THINKS

Winfrey wins free speech

"Free speech not only lives, it rocks!" So said talk-show host Oprah Winfrey after a jury in Atlanta, Ga., rejected the lawsuit brought against her by a

stamp of Jesus' criticism. They had claimed that a 1990 edition of Oprah focusing on mid-western doctors had disparaged the beef industry and caused futures prices to plummet. On the program, Winfrey said a vegetarian switch saved cows' lives. She stopped me cold from eating another burger. "After the verdict, a lawyer for the cat-

heron suggested the jury had been influenced by Winfrey's star power. But jurors said that while the program did offend some Catholics among them, they wanted to back free speech. The judgment Winfrey was asked whether she would eat another hamburger. "I'll never say never, she replied, but I don't think so."

Canada takes in Cuban exiles

Ottawa's apparent for "constructive engagement" with authoritarian regimes got a boost when Fidel Castro's Cuban government agreed to release 15 political prisoners into exile in Canada. The Liberal government claimed the arrangement—first proposed by Cuban Vice President Carlos Leizaola during a recent Ottawa lunch with Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy—was a triumph for Canada's approach to the Communist island. Early last year, Axworthy faced controversy in some circles by agreeing a 14-point co-operation accord with Cuba that included a secret provision for human rights. The latest release, however, is part of a series in which Cuba has freed hundreds of people in response to a call by Pope John Paul II in

January during his first visit to Cuba. But Canada is not the only country to accept Cuban exiles. The newcomers, who should be arriving within weeks, have been in jail from four to 11 years for trying to flee Cuba legally or for publicly criticizing the Castro government. "It is the kind of gesture the world is beginning to expect from Canada," said Sophie Galanteau, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.



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Cooling on Cuba

Many Canadians may detest it, but Helms-Burton is having an impact

BY NOMI MORRIS

With hammers clanging and drills whining, laborers at Havana's Jose Martí airport are rushing to finish as many new terminal buildings by the end of this month. Overseen by billions of Techniconers Inc. of Naples, Ont., Terminal 3 is the largest construction project ever under way in Cuba. On completion, it will triple traffic through the capital's airport, says Zvi Glantz, a Canadian who heads the firm's Cuba operations. Technicon also managed a \$9-million expansion of an airport near the Varadero vacation resort south of Havana, doubling its capacity. "Tourism is expanding so quickly that the old facilities couldn't keep up," said Glantz.

Behind a flurry of mostly small-scale projects, the fire has largely gone out at the Canada-Cuba economic relationship. American legislation punishing Canadians and others who do business with Cuba has had as impact—especially as larger firms with exposure in the United States. So has simple frustration over the sometimes raw pile of grating things done in the Caribbean nation. And some of the cooling-off may be due to factors unrelated to politics. But without doubt, the island has lost its status as the hot spot in Latin America for Canadian investment. Let's face it, there's more interest when you visit Mexico, Chile and Brazil," says Ianer Mulvender, transport minister Doug Lewis, now a director of Helms-Gold Mines Ltd., of Toronto, which has been active in Cuba for five years.

Lewis should know. He was the spark plug for a Canada-Cuba business committee that generated trade and business visits to Canada for Cuban government ministers in 1985 and 1986. But that group is dormant now—due to lack of interest. Lewis and other Canadian executives form a "Helms-Burton club" by buying larger Canadian corporations from investing in the Communist nation. Known by the names of its Republican sponsors, Senator Jesse Helms and Representative Dan Burton (and locally called the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act), the law provides penalties for foreign companies doing business in Cuba, especially those using property that American officials claim was illegally seized from them during Cuba's 1959 revolution.

The act's continuing pressure was underscored last week, when U.S. officials confirmed that they were investigating Calgary-based Cenad Inc., a petroleum company, for possible Helms-Burton violations. "Anyone from a telecommunications company or bank turns forthrightly when you mention Cuba to them," says Lewis. "They see their exposure in the U.S. and do not want to run afoul of U.S. regulatory authorities."

It is not only banks and infrastructure firms that have backed. The giant Saint John, N.B.-based J.D. Irving Ltd., which had been selling pulp to Cuba, has closed its Havana office. Ilexcan, Ilexco, the Montreal law firm of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau—a personal friend of Fidel Castro—now: permission to open an office in Cuba, but they decided against it. Most Canadian firms that had already invested in Cuba have stayed away—and many have expanded. But they have been double-checking local titles to assure shareholders that they are "clean"—not property confiscated from American owners—and thereby safe from U.S. reprisals under Helms-Burton.

The island is still attractive to small companies with no U.S. ties. Toronto-based Pizz Pizza has opened four Cuban outlets, with two more planned this year. Calgary's Canadian Exploration Ltd. drilled its first exploratory well in the southeast of the island in February. Canadians are now involved in 40 of Cuba's 200 joint ventures, and deal figures for two-way trade are expected to reach \$700 million for 1997, up from \$680 million a year earlier. Softer: Most Canadian businesses are among 180 firms that have set up agencies in these new free-trade zones designed to lure foreign investors. That makes Canada's presence second only to Spain, which has 50 companies in the zones, according to Octavio Castillo, the Cuban minister responsible.

And many of the Canadian enterprises on a so-called list of shame circulated by anti-Castro forces in the United States just light off Washington's wrath. Pass Nova president Stan Pronovost says he is "accused and blamed" that his small southern Ontario chain of pizza parlors has been singled out by Helms in his anti-Castro speeches. Pronovost says \$600,000 monthly in cheese, tomatoes and other supplies to his Cuba franchise, and takes in roughly a six-figure total. "Helms-Burton hasn't touched us at all," he says. "If the market was open, little guys like myself wouldn't have a chance."

Some of the cooling-off of Canadian activity is merely coincidental. For more than

a decade, Rodpath Sugars of Toronto imported 18 to 20 per cent of its raw sugar from Cuba. But it was forced to switch suppliers in 1995 after the loss of Soviet markets led the Cubans to dramatically reduce the crop. In return, an industry-wide downturn has dried up much of the bidding for export-line companies that were highly optimistic just a few years ago. Alan Kent, president of Cubacan, says Helms-Burton is not a key factor in mining, but it is an inconvenience: "Many American suppliers refused to send or ship equipment to Cubacan and it became difficult to find suppliers. We paid a significantly higher price for insurance," said Kent. "It's simply part of the cost of doing business in Cuba."

A measure of blame also goes to the Cubans themselves, who executives say still have trouble grasping business concepts as basic as a set closing date for a deal. Contraband slowed economic reforms, and

lagged appeared to break last month, when Delaney announced that Sherrett would invest \$150 million in a project to convert natural gas from fields east of Havana to electricity. Three weeks later, the company acquired 77.5 per cent of Cubel's cellular phone company for \$54 million. But each deal has been reported to have been delayed by Cuban decision makers. "They're very suspicious of foreigners," says a Canadian official. "And rightly so." Adds a Canadian businessman with substantial dealings in Cuba: "Delaney made the mistake of saying he was going to be the CPE of Cuba. They didn't like the sound of that one bit." Delaney declined to discuss his Cuba operation with Maclean's. "Things are not quite the yellow brick road, but slower may be better," he told Sherrett spokeswoman Patricia Moore last month. "From my point of view, it's business as usual."

Another major Canadian player is still waiting for a return on its mega investment. Vancouver-based entrepreneur Willy Beraudoff, whose path to Castro was smoothed by Trudeau, put \$140 million into mining, hotels and pharmaceuticals. Undaunted, he has spent new consultants for five years that amount. The Montreal Mining Corp., which has one gold mine in western Cuba, recently struck gold on the Isla de Juvenal off Cuba's southern coast, as well. Beraudoff also has a major stake in York Medical Inc., which has the rights to market six Cuban anti-cancer and anti-leukemia drugs, but has yet to increase the pharmaceutical abroad.

Fortunately, Beraudoff has placed most of his money in the tourism sector, the cash cow which Castro may soon open to unprecedented foreign ownership of real estate. In partnership with state-owned Gran Caribe, Beraudoff is planning an 11-story resort east of Havana. He also holds several long-term land leases that he believes will eventually turn into ownership. "It's 10 years from now, it's 10 years—but the attention will eventually materialize," Beraudoff says. Toronto lawyer Jeffrey Burns, who is helping Havana reform its tax law, confirms the government is working in a plan to sell holiday condominiums in order to lure repeat visitors. "They are trying to set up a system of private ownership of land," says Burns. "That used to be absolute heresy." When it happens, he believes, it will be only a matter of time before Cuban elites in Miami begin to buy vacation homes for their children.

Until then, the American presence in Cuba remains strictly unofficial. From Nova reports the U.S. diplomats, who work in Havana out of the Swiss Embassy, are among their best customers. American companies are permitted to back door by partnering with Canadian chains such as Delta and Journey's End. Few doubt that one day corporate America will re-enter Cuba. Until Washington drops its trade embargo and the coconut curtain cracks wide open, Canadian entrepreneurs will reap the rewards of their early-hard status. But for now, Canada's large corporations who decided that it is still too risky to invest in Fidel Castro's Cuba



Serving up Canadian pizza in Cuba: another step along old American legal detours

is increasingly suspicious of promises from foreigners after some bad experience with corporate overpromises—and history. Micro firms are still sharp of 200 years of denigration by Spain, 60 by the United States and 30 by the former Soviet Union, underspinning a longstanding fear of doing out too much of Cuba's economy to any one country—or conglomerate.

That fear has even affected the unopposed leader of the Canadian pack, Sherrett International Corp. of Toronto, which earlier shopped all a Helms-Burton report barring its senior executives from visiting the United States. Sherrett operates a motel near in eastern Cuba, and raised \$60 million in 1996 to get involved in other sectors of the Cuban economy—including the Cuban telephone company that insiders have told Maclean's that negative reviews by Sherrett chairman Jim Delaney's aggressive business style has raised obstacles to the company's expansion in the past year. The

WIN ANDREW PHILLIPS in Havana

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PHILIP BID PUT ON HOLD

Hamilton-based waste-management giant Philip Services Corp.'s \$2.6-billion bid to take over Safety-Kleen Corp. of Elgin, Ill., stalled when the U.S. company postponed a shareholder vote on Philip's offer until March 5. Meanwhile, rival bidder Laidlaw Environmental Services Inc., a unit of Burlington, Ont.-based Laidlaw Inc., sought an injunction in a U.S. court to overcome Safety-Kleen management's opposition to its competing bid for the offer.

ROGERS GETS MIXED NEWS

German Bond Rating Service Ltd. of Toronto lowered its ratings for several classes of debt issued by Rogers Communications Inc., as well as its Cabel mobile phone and cable television subsidiaries. But heavy trading in Rogers Communications stock drove its value up nearly a third to close the week at \$8.25 a share. (Among other interests, Rogers owns *Madison's* magazines.)

FERALLY FATAL FASHIONS

A rebound in the popularity of fur for garments was blamed for a resurgence in the number of wolves being hunted in the southern Arctic. Biologists said that in one area, a dozen hunters used snowmobiles to chase 400 wolves to extinction before killing them with rifles. Experts expressed alarm over the practice and the hunt's impact on wolf populations.

FRAUD IN THE CHAPEL?

Authorities in Florida arrested Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc., which claims to represent 30,000 churches, and charged him with attempting to defraud Loeven Group Inc., a funeral services company based in Milwaukee. Court documents allege Loeven executives paid Lyons and an associate \$4.4 million, purportedly for help selling a funeral, which instead was spent on clothes and other expenses.

MILKEN SETTLES

Multimillionaire Michael Milken, the junk bond trader convicted of securities fraud charges in 1990, agreed to pay \$57 million to settle a complaint against him by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. According to the commission, Milken, in 1989, was banned from the securities industry for life, but violated that ban—a charge that he neither admitted to nor denied.

Canadian gets off the ground

Fourteen months after it was a bruising showdown with its employers and a record \$38 million in tax losses from the federal, Alberta and B.C. governments, Canadian Airlines International Ltd. of Calgary posted its first profit in nearly a decade. In a customer call with reporters, Canadian president and CEO Kevin Benson conceded, "There's no big celebration going on in the company over this. The airline made a \$6.4-million profit on revenues of \$3.1 billion in 1990, its first black ink since 1986. Benson credited the turnaround to the company's decision to drop several routes to Europe, reduce the frequency of some domestic flights, and to increase its focus on Asia-based traffic that originated in the United States as Canada's 25-per-cent port, set. American Airlines, and passes through Canadian's Vancouver hub.

Concessions were from employees after management threatened to send the airline down in



Tax loss, posting its first profit in nearly a decade

In 1990 also played a part. Canadian won wage rollbacks from its 35,000 employees that brought salary concessions to as much as 17 per cent over four years. In return, employees agreed to accept Canadian stock valued at several times its then-market value of about \$2 a share (it closed last week at \$5.15 a share) and forego a share of any annual profit. Last week, Benson quipped, "The employees will get something, although not very much." He said the airline should have no trouble repaying the \$185 million still owed creditors.

Selling a mega-merger

Bank of Montreal chairman Matthew Barrett saved the company's annual meeting, held in Winnipeg, to promise that a proposed merger with the Royal Bank of Canada would result in more, not fewer, jobs and bank branches. Barrett, who sidestepped questions about layoffs and branch closures when the two announced their \$40-billion merger plan on Jan. 25, told shareholders that the combined unit

would expand its branch network to 3,000 outlets from the total of 2,550, which the two banks now operate.

Barrett also announced that the Bank of Montreal's \$88-million first-quarter profit was up 12 per cent from the same period a year ago. Meanwhile, the Bank of Nova Scotia announced an 18-per-cent increase in its first-quarter profits, to \$321 million. And the TD bank announced that its first-quarter profits of \$293 million were also up 13 per cent.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The Asian flu will cool Canada's economy by barely one-tenth of one per cent in 1991, according to a survey of economists. London-based Consensus Economics Inc. found predictions for growth in national output this year had been trimmed to an average 3.3 per cent, from 3.4 per cent, as a result of the impact of Asia's financial crisis on Canadian trade, especially on raw material exports and prices. Forecasts for 1991 indicated growth will continue to slow, to 2.9 per cent—down slightly from the 3 per cent that had been forecast before the Asian crisis.

BUSINESS INVESTS MORE FOR 1991

Percentage growth by province

Alberta	6.4
British Columbia	5.4
Manitoba	5.2
Ontario	5.0
Quebec	4.8
Saskatchewan	4.4

SOURCE: CONSENSUS ECONOMICS INC.

At the same time, raw stock Canada forecasts that capital investment by businesses this year will reach \$161 billion, a 6.2-per-cent jump from 1990. The growth in investment, however, will be only about half the 12 per cent recorded last year.

"Individual investors were not sellers of Canadian securities for the second consecutive month in December. Combined with the purchase of foreign securities by Canadians, the total outflow of capital from Canada amounted to over \$3 billion."

—Wendell Burns

"Personal income growth is set to pick up dramatically over the course of the year. We expect disposable income to grow by at least five per cent in 1991. That will support real growth in consumer spending."

—Steele Gipelet

50th

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HONG KONG

WONGWAI DEWAT CROSS

The Nation's Business



Peter C. Newman The new thinking in Paul Martin's budget

There's a vague but dramatic connection between Paul Martin's new budget and Ontario Hydro's recent blockbuster announcement that it will write off \$6.6 billion, the business equivalent of the sinking of the Titanic. The multi-billion-dollar hit, nearly twice as large as the previous record write-down—also taken by Ontario Hydro—may be signalling the end of a uniquely Canadian experiment.

Crown corporations like Hydro were ideally meant to take advantage of the economies of scale by being large public enterprises, yet run with the disciplines of the private sector. Such a mixed-economy approach was a kind of walled-in city, with its own geography and the absence of a large enough market to justify private ownership in some essential industries. The combination prompted governments to create nearly 50 state enterprises, operating everything from the national airline to the national broadcaster. Provincially, this included the huge utilities that fed electricity to Canadians' homes and the nation's industrial machine.

The idea originated at the turn of the current century with Sir Adam Beck, the son of a German blacksmith, who gained his reputation as a railroad baron of copper barons and mayor of London, Ont. He led the fight to harness the hydro power potential of Niagara Falls (because no single municipality could raise the funds necessary to build the required generating stations and generators). In 1916, Beck became the first head of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, and turned the municipally owned, provincially financed co-operative into the world's largest public power authority. He eventually drove private operators out of the industry, and the non-profit Crown corporation was born. Later known as Ontario Hydro, it became the proof and successful role model for similar Crown corporations in other provinces.

But that was long ago. That was before a succession of Robson CDEs drove Ontario Hydro into the ground. When the utility's historic write-downs are added to its existing debt of \$31 billion, it is obvious that the days of the Crown corporation are numbered—we should be.

The latest experiment has floundered on the inability or unwillingness of Hydro's management to exercise any sensible fiscal discipline. Mismanagement on this scale would never have been tolerated in the private sector, where shareholders would have launched a class action long ago. No matter how strongly an executive denies the possibility, Ontario Hydro is bound to be broken up into several entities, with the most viable sold to private entrepreneurs. Ben Osborne, the masked-chair CEO due to take over this week, will need to move fast to restore confidence in a company whose dire straits

he bears no blame for creating. He has nowhere to go but up. And if he thought that his previous berth as head of Bell Canada called for public stations, welcome to Ontario Hydro! The connection between that corporate nightmare and Martin's status quo budget is a shared value system. It emphasizes that the value system of the private sector has come to dominate public-sector decision-making. This is true, whether it involves trying to sell the future pattern for a crippled utility or the future role of Ontario in our lives.

Martin was notoriously nonsensical in spelling out his intentions. The deficit's back may be broken, but the national debt is nearly \$600 billion remains; he will not allow anyone, however worthy their cause, to divert him, and that means never losing control of the national accounts, as Canada did in the Trudeau and Mulroney years. It also means that Martin, who is emerging as Canada's ultimate cynic—no matter what politicians say—is well aware that his budget-balancing performance is as much good luck as good management.

The largest item in Ottawa's expenditure account remains the \$41.5 billion wasted annually in paying interest on the national debt, and that figure will rise as interest rates climb. Similarly, Martin knows that the main reason he was able to balance the budget was not because of the \$14 billion in program cuts the Liberals have implemented since coming into office in 1993, but because annual revenues have jumped by \$26 billion since then. That total is bound to drop as the looming recession, triggered by the Asian economic free fall, overruns the Canadian economy. Martin is doing the right thing cautiously, but don't ever expect him to acknowledge Ottawa's first spending ways of the past.

Canadians grew up in the comforting belief that nothing that could be imagined was impossible: that life from generation to generation would become ever more beautiful; that governments would constantly provide the social infrastructure for such a Disneyland world. The expectation was based on the concept of universal income in government largesse, the utopian notion that anyone who was born or became a Canadian automatically inherited the pains of heaven. And, as political scientist the late Alexander Brady once observed: "The role of the state in the economic life of Canada is really the modern history of Canada itself."

But the heavy cliché about there being no free lunch sadly turned out to be true: "English Canada has become a church, a permanent day care," Scott Symons, the expatriate Toronto novelist once wrote. "Everybody wanders little battle of civil war. Everybody wants the temple. It will take a generation to find out of the hole we have dug for ourselves." The age of entitlement is well and truly over.

Ontario Hydro and Paul Martin are sending out the same unrelenting message: from now on, we're on our own.

Have a nice day

The days of Crown corporations are numbered as private-sector values come to dominate public decision-making

Does a doctor have a right to end a patient's life?

THE FINAL HOURS

BY BRIAN BERGMAN

or someone taking the prospect of being sent to jail as a scheme of murder, Mary McCormack appeared remarkably calm. As she stood to one side of a packed courtroom in Helotes last Friday morning, the 42-year-old respondent spoke amicably with one of her defense lawyers. She smiled as she opened to brightly colored cards—some sort of good-luck charms for her patients. In the end, it proved to be a very fortunate day for McCormack. After a long and winding, New Mexico Federal Court Justice Hughes Randall declared that the Crown had failed to produce sufficient evidence to commit McCormack to stand trial on the charge of first-degree murder—or any lesser offense—in relation to the November, 1993, death of Phil Mills, a terminally ill cancer patient. A few minutes later, the woman who had been the unwilling focus of a national debate over euthanasia and assisted suicide was free to return home to her home state and expressed her relief: "I'm very shocked," she told reporters, "but it's not the end. I do feel further hurdles to jump."

What Morrison was referring to was the possibility that the Crown will resort to a rarely used provision—the preferred indictment—to proceed with a charge against her, despite Randall's ruling. The judge reached his decision after a five-day preliminary hearing (NY

In the prosecution's contention that the physician-killed Mills by giving him lethal injections of potassium chloride and sodium pentothal, after he was taken off life support at the intensive care unit of Hahnemann Veterans General Hospital, now part of the city's Quoniam University Health Sciences Center. Lead prosecutor John Satterfield said the Crown is considering three options: appealing Randall's ruling to a higher court, sending the matter to trial through a preferred indictment, or doing nothing—in which case Harrison would face no further threat of criminal prosecution.

By doing the column, the *Mirror* case registered a much larger national debate over the morality of so-called mercy killing, especially as it concerns physicians and their patients. In particular, it highlighted the fact that, under Canadian law, no distinction is made between killings motivated by compassion and those perpetrated by sin. As Paul Bernardo, Randall's deacon, said, Joel Feil, *Mirror*'s lead defence lawyer, sends a clear message to parliamentarians that they need to amend the law to prevent other physicians from ending similar legal ordeals. Added Feil, "They should sit at home and take a long hard look at how to protect the doctors who care and support their patients through this terrible, terrible drug process."

With Randall's dismissal of the charge, a publication ban covering testimony about the "dying process" Mills endured was no longer in effect. The preliminary hearings—one part medical drama and one part legal whodunit—provided a fascinating glimpse into the medi-

and endorses for pain-wracked dying patients that until now had been snugly hidden behind hospital bed curtains.

Under Canadian law, and according to ethical guidelines endorsed by the Canadian Medical Association, it is acceptable to withdraw ter-

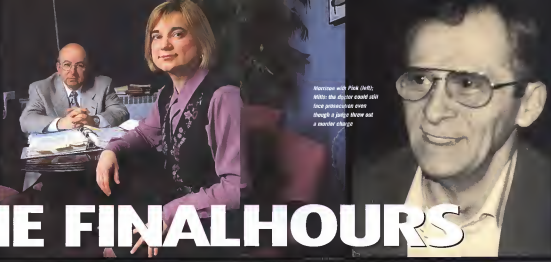
usually if) patients from life-support systems such as respirators at times in the patients' wish—or in consultation with family members in cases where the patient is incapable of consenting. Once life support is removed, medical staff are free to administer opiate and sedative drugs to ensure the patient's comfort a matter of hours or death. There are no upper limits to the dosages—they can be increased as much as is required to relieve pain, but this can be done even though it is recognized that a certain risk of death will now exist in order to hasten death. In Morrison's case, the police and Crown attempted to prove that she had crossed a clear ethical boundary by administering two drugs—midazolam and potassium chloride—that had no value as painkillers but were widely known to induce sudden death by stopping a patient's heart.

Long before Nancy Morrison ever encountered Paul Mills, the 66-year-old Missouri resident was a tremendously ill individual who, by most accounts, had defied the odds by surviving as long as he did. Mills was first admitted to Missouri Hospital on April 8, 1996, where he was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. The following day, he underwent his first five-hour op-

erious, during which his oesophagus was removed and his stomach casually stretched upwards about 12 inches and sewn in where the oesophagus existed, thus allowing food to pass directly from his mouth to his stomach. After this procedure, two-thirds of his stomach effectively died and had to be removed in a second delicate operation performed on May 14. "It was only due to the great talents of the surgeons in Moncton that he survived" this procedure, Dr. David Berthiaume, a thoracic surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth II, told the preliminary inquiry.

Over the next six months, Mada endured eight more operations on his femur after being transferred to the Victoria General on Sept. 28. The surgeries were painful, complex—and in some cases, threatening. In July and October, he was described by medical staff as being depressed and confused. He told at least one nurse he wanted to die. Mada required a respirator to breathe, and during one three-week period—from Oct. 15 to Nov. 6—he took 41 lbs. From the first of the 10th and third operations on Oct. 28, until his death on Nov. 13, Mada suffered from a steady decline. "Altogether, a septic prosthesis and a few antibiotics were given, but the patient was not responding well to treatment," critically ill, confirmed," said Elizabeth Black Macdonald, who served as Mada's bedside nurse in the intensive care unit. "The last few weeks of his life were certainly harrowing."

On Nov. 6, a recurring chest infection that Mills had first contracted in July was declared incurable. Three days later, Esthwaite



met with members of Mills's immediate family. They agreed he should be taken off life-support systems and that no steps should be taken to restart his heart if it stopped. By the morning of Nov 10, Mills was no longer receiving ventilator or food. A priest arrived at the bedside to perform last rites.

At 12:59 p.m., Mills was taken off the ventilator. Dr Barry Cohen, an internal medicine resident working in the ICU that day, told the preliminary inquiry that the normal response in such circumstances is for the patient to gasp for breath, the breathing rate to slow down and the heart to stop, signaling the patient's death. In Mills's case, said Cohen, "he continued to breathe and pulse in a diminished state." He continued to breathe and pulse in a diminished state. In her testimony, Mills's bedside nurse described his condition as more graphic terms. Under Pick's cross-examination, Blaud-Maclean agreed that Mills's gasping and struggling for air was "a horrible and distressing scene." In her 31 years as a nurse, she said, "I had never seen a patient suffer to the degree that Mr. Mills did."

Mills immediately received dramatically higher doses of Dilaudid, morphine and other painkillers. Medical records show that at 12:58 p.m. he began receiving 100 mg per hour of Dilaudid—20 times the 7-mg dose. By 2:30 p.m., the dosage had escalated to 500 mg per hour. (In most instances, the drugs were being administered by Blaud-Maclean, following the verbal and written orders of two physicians—either of three Morrison—to adjust the levels according to the patient's comfort level.) Several medical witnesses called by the Crown agreed under cross-examination that those represented extraordinary amounts of narcotics, more than anything they had ever seen administered to a patient. Yet, they acknowledged, the drugs appeared to have no effect.

Blaud-Maclean testified that at 2:50 she had a discussion with Morrison about how nothing seemed to be alleviating Mills's suffering. Two minutes later, she said, Morrison continued to the bedside with a 10-cc syringe of clear fluid. When she asked Morrison what was in the syringe, Blaud-Maclean said she was told it was morphine and to add the patient's suffering. When even the injection of morphine didn't directly into the IV line failed to have any telling effect, Blaud-Maclean made what she recalled to court as "a conscious comment." She said she could not imagine what it would take to end Mills's suffering, unless it was KCl—potassium chloride—a naturally occurring compound that stops the heart if doses are high enough.

According to Blaud-Maclean, Morrison returned to Mills's bedside with another 10-cc syringe. When she asked Morrison what was in that syringe, she says she was told that it was KCl. Morrison again injected the syringe directly into the IV line, said Blaud-Maclean. Within a minute, the bedside monitor registered an absence of electrical activity in the patient's heart. That Mills was dead.

Shortly after 3 p.m., Cohen returned to the ICU from a half-hour lunch break. Informing of Mills's demise, he filled out a routine death certificate, listing the cause as a refractory thoracic atherosclerosis—in other words, the chest infection. Initially told Mills. The medical chart recorded that day made no mention of intravenous or potassium chloride injections.

Four days later, however, Blaud-Maclean made a late chart entry, documenting what Morrison did during the last minutes of Mills's life. She said she did so on the advice of her suit manager, another nurse. Crown prosecutor Bennett asked her why she had taken to long to make the notation. "I was completely stunned by the events that transpired that afternoon," replied Blaud-Maclean. "Two drugs had been administered that I had personally never seen given to a patient before. I was shocked. I was in a state of disbelief because I had no concrete proof of what was in the syringes other than what Morrison had told her. Under cross-examination, she ad-

Paul Mills was taken off life support at 12:59 p.m. on Nov. 10, 1996. Court testimony revealed that, by the time he died, his body had received:

- 500 mg of Dilaudid, a narcotic painkiller, recommended dosage is two to four milligrams every four to six hours
- A prosecution expert acknowledged the dose given Mills was potentially lethal
- 230 mg of morphine, an over-the-counter sedative, usual dose is five milligrams
- 40 mg of morphine, a narcotic painkiller, usual dosage is five to 10 mg every four hours
- 12 milligrams of Ativan, a sedative, recommended dosage is 0.5 to two milligrams



Morrison General Hugh Everett Allen seemed to have no effect

A fellow doctor told police Morrison omitted euthanasia

nated she had no way of knowing if Morrison had diluted the drugs and what concentrations were actually administered.

The court also heard from Helen MacKinnon, the charge nurse on duty the day Mills died, and nursing supervisor Paula Foster MacKinnon said she saw Morrison in the ICU medicine cabinet on the afternoon of Nov 30, holding a vial of nitroglycerine in one hand and one of Dilaudid—used to lower blood pressure—in the other. She said Morrison told her she was looking for something to drop the patient's blood pressure. Foster testified that, after speaking with both MacKinnon and Blaud-Maclean, she contacted several senior hospital officials about the incident. She also spoke to Morrison and at one point asked her why she had administered KCl. According to Foster, the doctor replied: "Oh my God, I don't know why."

The testimony of the nursing staff, and especially that of Blaud-Maclean, was crucial to Butler's case. It provided the only first-hand evidence that a crime had been committed. The prosecutor tried to buttress that evidence by calling Geoffrey Barker, the chief of critical care medicine at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, an expert witness. He testified forcefully that potassium chloride had no value as a medicine for relieving pain or discomfort in terminally ill patients. Administered in the alleged manner, he said, it was a far assumption that "it's being used to hasten death."

The defense strategy became apparent during the cross-examination of Barker. Under the gentle prodding of Toronto lawyer Brian Greenbaum—Blaud's counsel on the Crown team—Barker, like other witnesses before him, confirmed that the amounts of narcotics and sedatives given to Mills on Nov 30 were "outside his experi-

ence" and were, in that, potentially lethal in their own right. He also said that the fact the drugs had no apparent depressant effect on the patient's breathing or blood pressure was not what he would have anticipated. Finally, he agreed with Greenbaum that it was "a real possibility" that the doses the drugs were leaving no effect was that the catheters from the IV had moved out of a blood vessel—and therefore the drugs were being delivered into a body cavity, from which it would take considerable time for them to be absorbed into the body. Neither the Crown nor the defense presented any evidence to suggest whether or not anyone had actually tested the IV line to see if it was working.

The defense got a further boost when New Brunswick forensic pathologist John Mackay testified about the results of an autopsy late November after the Crown ordered Mills's body exhumed. Mackay said that, because of their chemical properties, there was never any chance of the autopsy revealing whether Mills had received nitroglycerine or potassium chloride. But he confirmed to Greenbaum that, given the amounts of Dilaudid and other painkillers introduced into Mills's IV, some trace of the drugs should have shown up in his liver. None did.

In his summations, Greenbaum had Judge Randall there was only one rational explanation for why the massive doses of narcotics had no effect and did not show up in the autopsy: the IV line was not working. And if those drugs were not getting through, he said, neither could "the second KCl or nitroglycerine." There was simply no evidence, he argued, that Mills had died from anything other than natural causes. When it came to the allegations against his client, and Greenbaum, "whatever the situation was, the act didn't occur."

In making his ruling, Randall did not refute or discount Blaud-Maclean's accounts of the alleged nitroglycerine and KCl injections. But he did cite several key pieces of evidence, including the testimony indicating that Mills had received "astronomical" amounts of other drugs, that the autopsy revealed no traces of Dilaudid or the other painkillers, and the possibility that the IV had disconnected. He said "the totality of the evidence" was such that "it properly instructed jury would not convict the accused on first-degree murder" or on lesser of forces such as manslaughter or administering a noxious substance.

The preliminary inquiry did not consider in any detail how the hospital administration reacted in the days after Mills's death. These actions revolved around managing data between legal and medical departments and determining how the medical fraternity—and an increasingly conservative hospital—will sometimes close ranks to protect its own.

After receiving reports of what Morrison had allegedly done on the afternoon of Nov 10, the hospital ordered what is known as a peer review committee—made up of three ICU physicians—to investigate. After they concluded that what she had done was outside normal ethical medical practices and unacceptable, the hospital's most senior medical officials decided not to report the deaths of Mills's death to the College of Physicians, or to the provincial coroner's office, or to the police. Instead, they opted to suspend Morrison from practicing in the ICU for three months.

In letters to Richard Hall, director of ICU services, several senior medical staff warned that, when the details eventually came to light, the hospital would be accused of engaging in a cover-up. Regardless, At MacNeil took more decisive action. In a statement given to two Halifax police officers on March 27, 1997, MacNeil—who was only identified at the time as Dr. X—alleged that Morrison had performed "active euthanasia" by injecting a dying patient with nitroglycerine and potassium chloride. MacNeil, who was not in the ICU the day Mills died, said he based his knowledge largely on the peer review committee's report.

At the preliminary hearing, defense lawyers characterized MacNeil's statement as "hearsay." They also stopped the Crown from introducing the peer review report as evidence, convincing the judge that it represented confidential and privileged communication on the part of that club. And in summarizing evidence at the trial, the defense stressed that when 60 police officers raided the Queen Elizabeth II and arrested Morrison on May 6, 1997, they did so on the basis of two pieces of evidence: MacNeil's statement and a death certificate stating that someone had in fact died in the ICU on the day in question. The next day they charged Morrison with first-degree murder. From the outset, Pick raised questions publicly about why the police had arrested Morrison before interviewing even his doctors to the alleged crime.

In fact, the size of the police action last May, along with the nature of the charges against Morrison, provoked a wave of public support for the physician. A week after her arrest, Donald Schuurman, president and CEO of the Queen Elizabeth II, received a letter signed by the hospital's ICU doctors stating that they wanted to "reassure the hospital administration and the community at large that we know Dr. Nancy Morrison to be a caring and competent physician." Ironically enough, At MacNeil never signed the note. Doctors who signed that letter, meanwhile, 5,000 people signed a petition demanding that the Crown drop its prosecution of Morrison.

In November, Bennett and the Crown had decided "it was not in the public interest" to proceed with a first-degree murder charge, and would prosecute Morrison on the lesser charge of manslaughter. But in yet another twist, hinting at a profound disagreement on the prosecution side, the police returned to proceed on the lesser charge, meaning that the first-degree murder charge stood until it was dismissed by the judge last Friday. In the days ahead, as the Crown continued to press its case, the public began to feel a little more determined or an appeal to a higher court, such as the appeals of the police's interest will become ever larger. □

have equal access to palliative care. (The term, meaning to treat symptoms, refers primarily to efforts to relieve pain and make dying patients and those close to them more comfortable.) "I'm sorry—if you can call bereavement 'locks,'" says Berkman, who reviews medical equipment supplied from Nancy Fabro and her team at We Care, a private, national home-care firm. Although Canada is considered a world leader in palliative care—and many major hospitals run model programs—it is not readily available in many smaller centers and rural areas. Many doctors argue that calls for assisted suicide would diminish if access to palliative care was improved. "There is a lot of emphasis on assisted suicide and nobody pays attention to palliative care, which may in some cases be the problem," says Dr. Larry L. Sieck, head of palliative care at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. "Fear of pain, for example, is something that pushes some patients to consider that option."

Checks and balances are built into life-support devices, notes Dr. Richard Johnson, head of ICU at Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, because doctors and nurses consult with the family at each stage and try to determine what the patient would want. "Written prior directives are not necessarily the answer," he notes, "because the circumstances on each case are widely different. If there are disagreements on what to do, most hospitals have hierarchical review committees. 'We don't give people drugs to die,' he says. "We don't kill them. But we don't have a problem with discontinuing active therapy."

Less than five hours after 85-year-old Kay Seaton slipped into a coma in December, physicians at a suburban Toronto hospital told her two sons that, as a result, she had instructed them to take her off a respirator within 48 hours if she lost consciousness. The deadline would fall on Christmas Day, and the doctors said she had a 10-percent chance of survival on her own. "She was semi-conscious and delirious," recalls her son George, an executive. "I said, 'Don't be absurd.' You don't kill a grandmother on Christmas Day." But over her sons' objection, she was taken off life support, with doctors reversing their survival prognosis to 50-60. Fortunately, she regained consciousness three days later. On Dec. 13, she was out of the hospital. The experience "shook the law and lights out of me," says Kay Seaton, who has no recollection of giving such an instruction to the doctors. "They should have listened to my sons."

Other patients tell of being let down by the medical profession's assurances that pain can be managed. Elaine Thompson was diagnosed with a brain tumor on April 28, 1996—but 77th birthday. She died, the Calgary woman had not experienced a day without pain—a constant, chronic headache that can flare agonizingly at any moment or exertion. Thompson had surgery to remove part of the tumor in June, 1995, but doctors say it will kill her some time—say, five, 10, possibly 15 years. "The drugs relieve the pain, but it never goes away," she says. "Each time I get a new drug and feel better for a while. Maybe I have to learn to be happy with 80 per cent."

In Toronto, a 79-year-old former social worker named Joan saw her husband die a painful, brutal death in 1987 from stomach cancer and its complications. "He had morphine, but the pain was not always controlled," she recalls, "and the morphine was difficult." Now, she insists she wants to make her own decisions about how to die. "I don't want others to make those decisions for me." She has told her family she does not want any heroic life-support procedures, and now, she says, "they have the comfort of knowing they are carrying out my wishes." No one caused death, but many are planning to meet it on their own terms.

Offering a helping hand to those who long to die

He is engaged in Australia's Jack Kevorkian. Operating out of a rented room near Denver, capital of the pinched North, Dr. Philip Nitschke uses a machine that, like the notorious Michigan physician, enables patients to inject themselves with lethal overdoses. Nitschke, 50, began administering death after terminal legislators made it legal almost two years ago for doctors to assist in the suicide of the terminally ill—and he has continued to do so despite federal legis-

lation and political battle. It allows doctors to prescribe lethal drug doses to terminally ill patients. Legalizing physician-assisted death, predicts Derek Humphry, a veteran Eugene, Ore.-based pro-euthanasia campaigner, will continue to gain ground by fits and starts—but it's coming, it's inevitable.

Perhaps. But some of the hottest debate centers on practices in the Netherlands, where researchers reported 3,200 cases of euthanasia in 1995 by physician-assisted injection and about



Nitschke, physician-assisted suicide activist, is in vanguard under acceptance

lition passed last March that nullified the law. Nitschke says he received about one request a week for help. "In such cases," he says, "I decide, 'Can I get away with it? If people get help, it's because I can.'"

To the horror of opponents, physician-assisted death seems to be slowly winning wider acceptance in some parts of the world. In Michigan, Kevorkian—who says he has presided over the death of at least 80 people since 1990—last week helped his youngest patient yet, a paralyzed 23-year-old student, to end his life. And the state of Oregon, permits doctor-assisted suicide under a law that took effect last October, after a three-

400 of assisted suicide—in which patients die of self-administered drugs—in 1995 alone. Holland's controversial policy has evolved in recent decades amid a growing public acceptance of euthanasia and assisted suicide. While the practices remain casual acts, prosecutors do not take action against doctors who follow guidelines limiting their role to patients experiencing acute suffering with no prospect of improvement. Critics, however, say doctors are breaking those guidelines, killing before being with both-debilitated, depressed patients with no physical illness. "Once you say killing is permissible," says Wesley J. Smith, an Oakland, Calif., lawyer and anti-euthanasia campaigner, "the categories keep expanding."

MARK MOCHLES



Dr. Greet Groen and healing is the dying process

On the front lines with death

Palliative care comforts the hopeless

Doctors De Groot helps people die. A palliative care physician in Vancouver, Dr. Greet Groen works with patients in their last weeks or months of life, making them as comfortable and pain-free as she can. "To do what I do," says the doctor, "you have to be able to walk into a situation where there is a lot of emotion, a lot of grief, and feel that you can create something positive out of it." Her job is not just to help a patient deal with pain. "You're helping them and their family come to terms with death," says Dr. Greet.

Palliative care workers—doctors, nurses, social workers, assistants—often step in when there is no other medical solution for patients. Most have cancer or AIDS, but some are dying from heart or lung problems or other causes. Yet Dr. Greet finds her job much more spiritually uplifting than psychologically draining. Death, says the 62-year-old physician, is part of being an experience emotionally akin to birth. "With the right support," she affirms, "a family can experience growth and healing as the dying process."

The Greet is part of a team working for the health board of Vancouver and neighboring Richmond. Her day typically starts with a rush of phone calls and pager beeps demanding immediate response. A home-care nurse's patient is not coping well with pain, a family doctor is unsure what medication to prescribe, a dependent cancer sufferer is contemplating suicide. "Sometimes," she says, "a family doctor will phone and say 'I'm over my head, can you come and help?'" Family physicians do not always know how to alleviate a

Thinking of a week when she visited three patients who were born the same year she was, Dr. Greet concludes, "Sometimes my work brings pretty close to home."

She remembers how to talk freely to patients, such as a man in his mid-40s who tried twice to commit suicide. "Your 40-year-old son is watching how you manage your death," she reminded him. "He will always remember how you died." That, Dr. Greet says, stopped the man out of this despair and allowed him to seize his last moments of life.

Up to a third of patients with experience deep melancholy. Dr. Greet says, a problem that is usually solved with antidepressants. "Often people who are considered suicide are those who feel overwhelmed by their pain or symptoms or just abandoned and despairing." One of her jobs is to recognize a patient's inclination to become depressed and step in with medication if necessary.

Dr. Greet says she cannot condone doctor-assisted suicide but she respects a patient's decision to end his or her life. "Is a physician there are two questions to consider," she says. "Do I think patients have a right to choose? Yes. But is it personally felt I have the right to take another's life? No. It's not mine to decide when to die."

However, she will not try to revive a dying patient who has taken an overdose, nor will she resuscitate a patient who experiences cardiac arrest, unless he or she requested it beforehand. "We wouldn't tarry long life at any cost," Dr. Greet says. "For most of our patients, it's remarkably little since they are already so close to death."

JENNIFER HUNTER in Vancouver

Pushing home care

Ottawa shifts its focus away from hospitals

As federal minister of health since last June, Allan Rock says he will keep his promise as his cabinet colleagues to property fund health-care cutbacks. But he also addresses some longer problems in the system to organizational reform and financial shortcomings. In a conversation that took with Maclean's Board of Editors, Rock outlined how he sees improvements in home-care programs as a key to reducing the system.

Maclean's: Is the health-care system an critical condition?

Rock: I think we're in a period of transition in health care in Canada. We're going from the quill pen, hospital-based days through to a more integrated health-care system of the future, which draws upon, in particular, technology for efficiency. Care takes place not just in the doctor's office or in the hospital but also in the community. In future it will be recognized that doctors are no longer compartmentalized, standing apart from all other caregivers, but are members of a team in which the appropriate person—whether it's a therapist, a case worker, a nurse practitioner or a physician—will give the task that arises.

Maclean's: Do you think Canada also needs a two-tiered health system?

Rock: I absolutely do. And I think for the sake of most those who would have a private parallel system is to ensure there's never a market for it. We're very proud of our public health-care system. But we have to remember that it's not something that we can take for granted. Broad public support for the single-tier public health system isn't automatic; it will remain only as long as people can be confident they'll get the highest possible quality of care and when it's needed. And I think that a part of a bolder government's role with the Canadian people. If we don't keep our part of the bargain we're jeopardizing support for Medicare.

Maclean's: Are the federal and provincial governments keeping their side of the bargain?

Rock: I think both federal and provincial governments can do better. If you look at the pace of restructuring in some parts of the country, it has gone ahead quickly with hospital closures, for example. That govern-

ments haven't followed up with the reinvestment in community and home care where it's needed. Health care for people used to mean hospitals and doctors. But hospital stays are shorter now because of improved medical technology. It's possible to have abdominal surgery and come out the next day, whereas it used to be a two- or three-week



Rock: "We're moving the caring, the care of cuts is over."

ment that when you come out you often need someone to change your dressing, to check your condition, to look after you in the home, at least for the period of your recuperation. The availability and quality of that care in Canada at the moment is uncertain.

Maclean's: The program who for responsible for delivering those services any day can't afford them.

Rock: Well, it's often said that these problems arise because of money. That maybe the better way of looking at it is what kind of system do we want? And then get us into the area of quality and standards. But, that being said, I have no doubt that we're going to have to restructure the system through home care, community care. The Prime Minister has said that 50 per cent of any future surplus will be devoted towards reinvesting in social programs. And I'll certainly be an advocate for health being among the first priorities in future spending. I would not deny

that federal funds have had an effect, they have. But we've turned the corner; the era of cuts is over, we've stabilized cash transfers to the provinces and we're going to build from there.

Maclean's: What from the Ottawa agenda to encourage the provinces to improve home-care programs?

Rock: Many provinces already have home care of one description or another, and a beautiful last the way. As to what influence Ottawa would have over the adoption of a standard approach to home and community care, I hope that it is going to be worked out over the next 12 to 18 months. We will be developing some consensus about the importance of home and community care and how it might be furnished in accordance with standard definitions and common approach.

It has to be woven into the fabric of health insurance, just as physicians and hospital services are now. We also need an approach towards the quality of care. I see, for example, standardized training for home-care workers as an essential part of this. At the moment, that's not in place in many parts of this country.

Maclean's: When you talk of home care, what do you envision?

Rock: Home care could be anything from maintaining the house for an elderly person who is not able to do it, to someone who might drop in with meals, or a nurse practitioner coming by to take vital signs, right through to looking after someone who is recovering from acute care. And I should stress that I don't think home care can be looked at in isolation—it's tied into everything else. I can't imagine solving the home-care middle without also resolving some of the pharmaceutical issues. You know you're in the hospital in some parts of this country and you're taking over-the-counter, for example, you get the drug for nothing because it's covered by Medicare. But if you're either at home during the course of your treatment, you have to pay, sometimes \$2,000 per first month. So I think all of these initiatives are connected.

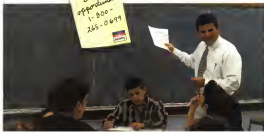
Maclean's: How realistic is it to expect personal responsibility as an underpinning change to the health-care system?

Rock: It is an area like home care I'm very optimistic. First, I think there's a broad and growing perception that it is needed. Second, many of the provinces have already started down that road. Third, acting in a coordinated fashion will be an opportunity to translate it into a standard approach across the country. Fourth, there is the prospect of federal help in financing the plan. Finally, I think the provinces also acknowledge that with a properly developed home-care system they can save money in other parts of the health-care system. □

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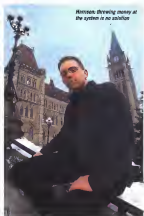
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Dealing with debt

For many Canadian university students, Kevin Perkins will graduate this year with questionable job prospects, a whopping debtload—in his case \$35,000—and a loan repayment schedule stretching well into the next century. For those reasons, the fourth-year history and East Asian studies major at Toronto's York University was glued to the TV on Feb. 24 as Paul Martin delivered his budget. The finance minister did unveil one new initiative aimed at helping those currently enrolled in college and university—a tax break on student loan interest payments, which could be worth up to \$3,200 per student. But many of the minister's announcements—most notably the \$2.5-billion Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation—will benefit only those coming into the system later. "Future students are getting a break," said Perkins. "But for people in my position, it's like watching children be saved while we go down on a sinking ship."

Critical voices were almost drowned out by provincial educators and some student leaders, however, who gave Martin straight A's for his Canadian Opportunities Strategy. The seven-part plan offers assistance to funding \$5 billion to current and future students, its promise to help people who may have to return to school and parents attempting to save for the education of their children. "This is a landmark budget for higher education in Canada," said Paul Davenport, president of the University of Western Ontario in London. "Many of us have been waiting for this kind of initiative for a decade."

The cornerstone of the plan is the millennium scholarship fund, which was predictably attacked by separatist politicians in Quebec as a federal assault on provincial control over education. But while Ottawa will put \$2.5 billion into the fund, an independent foundation, chaired by Chrysler Canada president Yves Fassin, will be created to oversee the program. It will run for at least a decade, starting in 2000, and provide about 100,000 scholarships per year, averaging \$3,000, to students from low-



Minister throwing money at the system is no solution

Educators give Martin straight A's

income backgrounds. Many university administrators said the initiative addresses immediate and long-term objectives. "It's focused on students who have financial needs," said University of British Columbia president Martin Piper, adding: "If you're going to address job creation and economic prosperity, you have to provide everyone with access to education."

Most of the details about the foundation—how needs will be assessed, how the

money will be split between college and university students, and how the funds will be covered up regionally—have yet to be determined. David Skusey, a professor of economics at the University of Toronto, said the foundation will have to resolve those issues in consultation with provincial student aid agencies, which could lead to an admin-

istrative quagmire. And before then political jockeying over the foundation begins awarding scholarships. "Suppose a disproportionate amount of money goes to Ontario and British Columbia," he said. "That's going to cause problems."

In his budget, Martin acknowledged that many costs and debtloads are becoming a serious barrier to access to higher education. He noted that by 1999 the average graduate of a four-year university program will be \$25,000 in debt, up from \$12,000 at the start of the decade. To ease the burden of repayment, Martin unveiled five existing interest relief and debt-reduction measures aimed at graduates facing financial difficulties. For example, former students earning less than \$20,450 annually are currently entitled to 30 months of full interest relief—the federal government makes payments to a chartered bank on behalf of the individual—in the first two years after graduation. Martin raised the yearly income threshold to \$22,100, and also increased the eligibility for partial interest relief.

The minister added another initiative to the mix—the tax credit for student loan interest payments—which will benefit as many as one million graduates. Under this measure, someone graduating with student loans totaling \$25,000 would pay back \$2,800 in the first year, based on an annual interest rate of nine per cent. Of that amount, \$2,135 would be interest. Martin's tax credit would allow the individual to recover \$500, or 17 per cent of the interest paid. However, some student leaders were unimpressed. "This is a crisis intervention kind of budget because the current level becomes too large to ignore," said Bradley Levine, national chairman of the 400,000-member Canadian Federation of Students. "We need measures to prevent the massive accumulation of debt in the first place."

Others were equally adamant in defining the budget priorities. Richard Blumenthal, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, contended the government for taking a balanced approach with proposals to assist people before, during and after completing their education. "You can't just throw money at the educational system," said Blumenthal. "There are no magic bullets that will solve this problem." But, for the time being at least, Martin seems to have found enough money, and new ideas, to win over a sizable contingent of educators.

DAVID JENNIS

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JANSONE

Sports

Games begin—again

Nagano welcomes the world's Paralympic athletes

Life is full of second chances. Just ask Shanna Raulerson. In the years leading up to the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, the Alberta star was one to watch in women's bobsled—a past Canadian national sprint champion, with her sights set firmly on capturing Olympic glory in France. But Raulerson never made it to Albertville. In 1991, she broke her back in a horse-riding accident, an injury that left her able to walk only with the aid of crutches and a brace. "The most devastating part was that women's bobsled was performing in Albertville," recalls Raulerson, 30. "I never had an opportunity to make the team." Seven years later, however, she did make the team—not for the Olympics and not standing on skis, but as a competitor against a world-class field of athletes. Starting this week, Raulerson will represent Canada at the seventh Winter Paralympic Games in Nagano, competing in bobsled and four cross-country events. "My tears took away a lot of stress," says the Calgary resident. "Six years ago, I've realized this is doing something that I love to do—it has to be done differently, but the feeling is still the same."

The world of sports is rife with tales of overcoming adversity, but the Paralympic Games—designed to allow athletes with disabilities to compete against the world's best—transcend clichés about athletic skills, strength and plucky resolve. They have been a coda to the more-watched and more-watched Winter Olympics since 1976, and this year they will be held from March 5 to March 14 at Nagano's Olympic venues, drawing competitors from 30 countries, including 30 from Canada. (The CBC will run two one-hour specials at the Games, on March 23 and 24. The estimated 1,000 Paralympians—the most ever to compete in the Winter Games—have a wide range of disabilities: some are blind or partially sighted, some are para- or quadriplegics, some are amputees, and some suffer from such physically debilitating diseases as cerebral palsy



Raulerson is training, pushing, mind and body

and polo. This year, too, for the first time, athletes with intellectual disabilities will compete. Despite their differences, however, what the Paralympians hold in common is a goal shared by any athlete, disabled or not: to push mind and body to the limit. And in some pain.

To accommodate the disabilities of the athletes, Olympic-style events have been hybridized and adapted. There are five categories of competition. In alpine slalom—downhill, super-giant slalom, giant slalom and slalom—athletes with lower-limb disabilities use a sit-ski or chair-ski, and partially sighted competitors ski with a guide, and those who compete standing (including amputees) use either one or two skis, and can also use outriggers. In bobsled and cross-country, much the same variety applies, although in the slalom event visually impaired athletes ski with the help of an acoustic device. Ice sledge hockey, meant wide, is played only by athletes with lower-

limb disabilities, who push themselves around the ice seated on sledges, with two specially designed sticks that are part back, part ice pick, to speed racing. Paralympians use similar sledges on a slalom sled. At Nagano, Canadians will compete in alpine slalom, speed racing and cross-country slalom and para-bobsleds, with plenty of experience. Canada's medal hopes are running high. "The alpine, and I know how to ski," says 38-year-old alpine racer Mark Ludbrook. "If I don't end up on the podium, I'll be pretty upset."

Although this will be his first Winter Games, Ludbrook—who lost his left leg below the knee in a snowmobile accident when he was 10 and living in Stratford, Ont.—is a Paralympic veteran. He first competed in the Paralympics as a swimmer at 1984, winning a silver and two bronzes at Long Beach, N.Y. Ludbrook competed in the two subsequent Games—Seoul in 1988 and Barcelona in 1992—and after that he moved to Whistler, B.C., to pursue a skiing career. "I just need a change," he says. "And I always loved to ski." In Whistler, the self-employed Ludbrook paid to train 100 days on the slopes a year, and he has developed his own prosthetic device that simulates an ankle and ski boot to give him greater feel on skis. Over the years, he has watched the Paralympic movement gain in respectability and in the level of competition. "But it has a long way to go," he adds. "We need to make sure people with disabilities go out there and do those things."

That, in part at least, is what the Paralympians are able to show that, as Raulerson says, "no matter what happens, you can always choose to make your life the best it can be." And although multiple gold medals are awarded across all 10 different sports in the disabilities, Paralympians are serious athletes. Raulerson, married to four-time Canadian bobsled champion Eric Raulerson, has been a wheelchair athlete for five years, and finished 10th in the wheelchair competition—the top Canadian—at the 1994 Boston Marathon. At last year's Europa Cup Biathlon, she placed second in the world in bobsled and in the five and 10-kilometer cross-country and she won those events plus the 2.5-kilometer cross-country at an event in Norway.

As far as training goes—a neck injury suffered during a car accident last summer put her behind schedule, but she says now that her preparation is an track—Raulerson's strength makes her the envy of cross-ski bled athletes. "Days come up to me and say, 'Wow, I wish I had arms like you!'" In Nagano, she and other Paralympians will compete on the same courses that the Olympics did—and also on newly "I watched the cross-country on TV and was like, wow, we have legs up and down these hills," she recalls. "But that's OK," Raulerson adds. "I like hills."

JOE CHIRLEY

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Prairie godfather



BY SHARON BUTALA

Here was the least common denominator of nature, the skeleton
recurrently worthy of land and sky—*Squalichnus tauris*

—*From Who Has Seen the Wind*

William Ormond Mitchell, who in his first novel peered perhaps the most-quoted opening line in Canadian literature, died last week in his Calgary home after a long struggle with prostate cancer. Over his 60-plus years of writing, teaching and storytelling, he has become so familiar to Canadians that his name is almost as much a household name as Mitchell, who wrote, among other books, published in 1964 *Who Was the Wind* in 1967 when he was 33. Using the simile he had known as a child around his birthplace of Weyburn, Sask., to stand in for the great mystery of life, and the constant prairie wind as a symbol for God, with stunning effect he matched a small child's inquisitive heart to the land's immensity. Combining insight with a great gift for language, Mitchell's writing is as beautiful as the prairie, and the 30th anniversary of his death is being celebrated in the 30th anniversary of the award Canada gave him, the Governor General's Award.

But it was his more than 300 scripts of *Jake and the Kid*, broadcast on CBC Radio between 1930 and 1938—a time when outside of cities radio was the chief source of entertainment—that spread his fame beyond the literati to those who had never read his novels and now

only never moved. "It's enough to give a gutter the heartburn," sounded sufficiently like something an unwarmed dinner might say in conversation, or ought to say; that this and phrases like "delighted urban historians" – but also endorsed Mitchell to those who had spent their lives in the proximity of the down-turned epiphany in the gutter, as if an actual model of the "negativity" of the gutter could be the only model of life for the "delighted" of the "urban historians" in the hearts of its people, who were and are more sophisticated, although less charming, than Mitchell's *Juke* and the *Kid* characters. He had put his finger on something about their lives that no one else had, and the script – polished, forthright, very long, sometimes politically boring, and often occasionally – today – merely – boring – in relation to the *Juke* and *Kid* characters, and the *Juke*, *Tramont* and the unnamed *Kid* become part of California sex education.

It would seem, however, that Theatre was Mather's first love. In the early 1930s, he studied playwriting at the University of Washington, then spent three years (1934-1936) in Seattle writing newspaper copy as well as plays, and acting for the Penthouse Players. He relished giving performances of his work—he was often compared to witty-rascals such as Sophro Lamcock and Mark Twain—and with his trademark tousled white hair, his distinctive voice and his considerable gifts as an actor, he gave masterful performances that widened his already broad audience.

If his fans tended to confuse him with Jake Trumper, and if Billy Mitchell, as he sometimes rather touchingly referred to himself, was perhaps a trifle confused himself as to who he was, he was nonetheless not the Prairie booby or crackpot bawled philosopher he played on the stage. Most associated with the prairie, he spent much more of his life closer to the Alberta foothills—like lived in Bush River or

and on for 30 years, and then in Calgary for many more—than to the theme of his first and best-known novel.

[illegible]

With his father in 1858, recipient

Community was also a constant theme. But in the small western towns where he set many of his stories, he did not ignore or sentimentalize the darker underbelly of violence, alcoholism, and prostitution, as he did in his depictions of the city. He also invariably wrote: At the same time, he never lost the childlike capacity for awe and always kept beyond the town was the great mystery and beauty of wilderness that he celebrated in his works as a writer to God.

Michell received many honors over his 60-year career, including the Prix Goncourt in 1986, an offer of the Order of Canada in 1987, and the Order of the British Empire in 1992. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1992 and 1998. The *Jacob and the Boy* series, some of which first appeared in short stories, were said to bring Margaret Laurence to be "among the first that any of us who lived on the Prairies had ever read concerning our own people, our own place and time." With the publication of *The Handwriting Book* in 1973, came Dick Harrison noted that Michell became the first writer to use the word "homosexual" in a Canadian novel. In 1990, as an instructor of Archie Macdonald, he created one of Canada's most remarkable figures, and in a country whose literature is short on com-



Miss Kim family in 1958: recapturing the wonder-filled world of childhood.

Writer and humorist W. O. Mitchell
was a Canadian original

Macmillan managed it with all the expense and loss restored.

How Man Stole the Wind ends on a long shadow. Although many of his novels were commercial successes—like the (dis)honest *How Man Stole the Wind*—were best-sellers—it is probably an accurate judgment that he never again achieved the brilliance of his first novel. But *The Remaking of Ben: How I Spent My Summer Holidays and Then, in a Difficult Year* are all complex, agonized and brave novels, all containing passages of power and beauty, all reaffirming human decency, speaking up as it were for the weak, the unprotected and the powerless, and all containing the life-longing, controlling people of Calcutta temperament who run the places where he grew up (as in later novels, the universities).

If he had never written *Who Has Seen the Wind?* he would still be a novelist of stature, much-admired and honored, especially in the West. If he had written a last instead of first, we would mention his name solemnly in the company of the world's great writers. Whatever the case, he was, in the end, as much a symbol of the West as the meadowlark and the wind, and a Canadian original. □

Sharon Delisle is the Nigerian, South-African, award-winning author of The Fourth Archangel and The Perfection of Morning. She currently lives in a small town in England, UK.

By W.O. MITCHELL

Lingerie ladies

Wendell Colburn got me into it actually even though he wasn't such a close friend of mine. He didn't live in our end of Kharston or go to High School with me and Pat and Hodder and Ben and Peanuts and Mae and the Quake either though he would be in our part of town to visit his aunt who taught us in Grade 4. He would always come down Sixth Street most of the time lying on his hands with his head up and back arched, his knees spread slightly and legs loose so that his toes kept tapping the top of his head. Behind him Gussy upended along with eyes rolled upwards so that two-thirds of the whites showed, slobbering and snuffling with chronic snots. Wendell had went to the 145th Building Orange swimmers. Wendell always stopped at our place because he was determined to walk downstair on his hands, and our front porch had five shallow steps for him to precise on. Eventually he was able to walk downstair on his hands, an impractical accomplishment really, because the Colburn house had no front steps at all, their house was not even a two-story house. Ours was three.

Every time Wendell came by either on foot or on hand, always with Gussy behind, he was a living proof to other Kharston boys that contests could be won. There were other things about Wendell his nose bleed very easily, so that in a fight with him all you had to do was try for it. In spite of his spiky nose no one tried to provoke a fight with him, because he had taken up what we called "jowling" and if he was hit as good as that was on his hands, a would be ally to take him on. He was quite likable and he was willing to show anybody how to walk on their hands, and do go-guy holds and throw if they pleased to be careful and not hurt his nose and make it bleed.

But the salient thing about Wendell was that he had been a building slant by collecting a higher number of Building Orange swimmers than any other boy in Kharston, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. 16,529 Wendell's father was the western Saskatchewan manager for Walrus's First Wholesale. It was therefore in a way Wendell Colburn's debt to get most of us in the Ten Thousand Dollar Contest at back of Olga's Roadhouse messengers.

The contest was illustrated with the picture of a lovely woman who had just been splashed with mud from a passing State Roadster, the halloo among them her mouth contained a lot of jammed-up muckers. By substitution of "a" for "I", "I" for "I", and so on, you were able to decipher what she said. The result was quite tame to me. "Oh my my you will have to be my new house. The best in me too good for me. It will have to be The-Mae Lingerie for real value, style and freedom of action!" I told Olga that was a fancy thing to have in a Ten Thousand Dollar Contest. Olga said that it was their ten thousand dollars, that probably they'd put it in to make the deciphering that much harder.

We crafted our solution and walked with impudence. We knew

we weren't likely to win the three-thousand dollar first prize or perhaps even the second prize two thousand or three-thousand one thousand, but there were thirty consolation prizes of one hundred dollars each and we were sure to get one of those. I suppose the reply to our entry came as soon as such replies generally do, though the time seemed to stretch eternally. When the answer came it was a large curtain containing around other things a letter.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

You have perfectly assembled the swimmers on our Grand Ten Thousand Dollar Contest, which has placed you in the semifinals along with thirteen other successful contestants. The next step, in order to determine the winner of our first prize of three thousand dollars cash, requires to you our

assignment of a representative of *Wendell's Roadhouse* and *The-Mae Lingerie*. All you have to do is tell their lovely, well-dressed, merry, also gorgeous in plum, pure, majestic, coral and pearl pink to your friends. See how delighted they will be. Points will be awarded you per word used as the descriptor will be better. Good luck, ladies!

According to the prize list enclosed there was fifty dollars' worth of lingerie, my friends were the Pat, Hodder, Peanuts, Mae, Fin, and I could tell right away how delighted they would be. There were, however, my mother, my auntie Joce, my grandmother, Olga, the thirty members of my mother's Boring Book chapter, the twelve female members of Kappa Presbyterian Church, eleven of my Mother's sing club, her bridge club and the Ladies South Kharston Golf Club. There were as well those lovely individual women along Sixth Street, at those houses—for a price—your left May baskets fashioned of wallpaper and filled with crocuses, where you were sure of Halloween grandeur. Mrs. Crompton and Mrs. MacKinnon, Mrs. Zabel, Mrs. MacLennan, Mrs. O'Connell.

Included with the inventory list was descriptive literature intended to be helpful. Stockings were said to be "slender light" and "velvety delicate", dresses had "well-dressed in, because of full lines". This was surely unappealing but the rest was unappealing precisely.

I told stockings to my mother, my auntie Joce, bloomers to Olga, who actually would have preferred stockings, but I explained to her that I anticipated no difficulty in getting rid of them. I was right! I had sold them all before I got down to the Ladies South Kharston Golf Club. Now, putting the curtain behind me in my brother's sages, I had the disastrous task of selling the other stuff from door to door and to ladies I don't know. It was like trying to explain an inert crime over and over again. I went next door bells and interrupt ladies at their baking or (cooking or stopping) it was a sort of wrongful and disturbing assault—to enter stranger houses uninvited. I was quite unsuccessful, and after my tenth attempt



without selling a single article, I commented to Olga that it looked as though Blue Town ladies didn't go to much for underwear.

I had worked out more and of lawn and moved to Government Road with no sense of adventure at all. I knew in my heart that there wasn't a chance I could break the deadlock to win the Ten Thousand Dollar Contest. And if I couldn't sell the lingerie I didn't know what I could do with it. The contest people had seemed in good faith that I would sell it, and it would be cheating of some sort to return it, so, quite possibly it would be breaking some sort of law.

Mrs. Hahndorf had closed the door gently in my face, she had been kind without, loving sympathy, and I stood dumbfounded and ashamed on the front porch with the window still of old paint but under the new plaster in my nostrils. Here it was the second Saturday afternoon in May and I should have been out on the street drawing gophers or watching William S. Hart in the Hi Art Theatre. I pulled my wagon and its cartons of bloomers to the corner and stood there uncertain. I'd run out of houses, in the next block south corner the Co-op Grocery, Shurt's Livery Barn, then the Messy Street implement shops. To the next lot the Fair Grounds, beyond that open prairie and then Sade's Roadhouse.

Miss Roadhouse was a milliner and lived in these little cottages with bonnet room, an afternoon fragment of street scene contractor had built in the 1930s when Kharston had been extremely subdivided for a male in every direction. The interior between Miss Roadhouse's and the Fair Grounds was exciting, for here combs and hairpins were stacked and crocus stems prodded whenever they came to town, this was the changing ground for gypsies, and since these were the inimitable post-First World War days flying and with white silk scarves loaded their Jenkins' studied swing down against the prairie wind, did wing-walking and tug-of-war-swinging, took up passengers for ten cents a pound. These were short-lived and seasonal gaudies, which somehow seemed to infect the Sade's

the rest, but what I like best in Wendell's dress, double dress do!

I came to the edge of Venderbush's and field with the most May wind rolling waves through the shrill green. I saw a gambler sitting upright in her belt, jaws held up before him, as if he were swollen with spring and youth. Woman's laughter dripped to me as I came up to the backs of the three baroque horses.

They were all on the porch at the second house, in kimonos or wiggins, seated on the rail, three of them on kitchen chairs there. They were drying their hair and leaning forward so that it curled their faces, and they were laughing and laughing all the while the piano played inside the house. It wasn't as though they were happy, but they were laughing as much as though they all belonged on the same gaily buckled horse.

Miss Roadhouse gave me cookies and a glass of milk, I finished them and then sat on the edge of the porch, not knowing how to begin. I started finally by telling them about the Grand Ten Thousand Dollar Contest. Miss Roadhouse got me to bring the cartons up onto the porch. I didn't have to do any selling. The dark woman with thick black hair and tall cheeks, the one with the narrow face and wide forehead with her hair cut, that seemed to spring from her temples rather like the female wings that go with the building and professional clove. Miss Roadhouse herself, though, had burnt hair combed with elastic inserts for better control and flaring-silken circular hair caps. "petti parties cut in one piece for extra control and longer wear with opaque silk velvet and non-chafing double crease." The girl with the black eyes and cream skin, the very lovely one, took my last nightgown with "secret undergarment on bonnet with over-lays all lace—daisy white." I sent off the inventory wagon and with it the contest result. Three weeks later there was another curtain with an exhausted sales telling me that the deadlocked contestants had been thrown down to ruin. The curtain contained a press of little bottles of perfume.

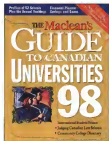
My mother came to return them. I could have seen them all inside of five minutes out at Sade's Roadhouse. □

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TELEVISION

Joe Chaffley

Raw id for the idiot box

Tis having a "liveness" affair? For her 15 minutes of fame, this message flashing on the TV screen defines Jan. The posty appeal, 25th view has been long for two years with Blue, a fellow, clean-cut test. But lady she's been dealing with another guy, whose name is Jan and who's been asked and who says the friend after. What either of the men know, however, is that Jan has been exploring supplier delights with Kerry, a stateside blond who—gosh, it's a real world—used to date Jan. But what's really remarkable about the story of Jan is not so much its content as the stage upon which it is played out. Instead of keeping her skeletons in the closet where

One could expect they belong, Jan chose to tell her tale as front of not only Ross and Jan and Kerry, but also a live audience who by turns cheer and/or her sexual peripatetics. And when they really get worked up, as when the two girls versus the two boys versus the two adolescent men and girls, the adult crew erupts into a by-gone-lullaby TV music, "Jerry Jerry Jerry!"

Welcome to the world according to Jerry Springer For Love of the Jerry Springer Show, last week's "I'm Having a Bi-annual Affair" episode contained all the requisite elements: lady sex, dramatic strife, gender-bending, fist-fighting. That is the usual fare on Springer, which during its seven seasons in syndication has earned it the right to be called the most shocking program on network TV. What is new, however, is its popularity. After years languishing in fourth or fifth place among talk shows, Springer has come into its own now. Howard Stern may claim to being the King of All Media, but he's got nothing on Jerry Springer—a 54-year-old former lawyer, mayor of Cincinnati and uncle to Robert Kennedy—when it comes to polarizing schlock.

Last November, Springer did the unthinkable and beat the game of daytime, The Oprah Winfrey Show, in cumulative ratings (which could double ratings of the same

show). In January, it watched another milestone, tying Oprah in non-cumulative ratings and beating her in the cherished 18-to-35 and 18-to-49 demographic brackets. In Canada, national ratings for the show are unavailable, but it is a staple of independent stations across the country. Meanwhile, the mail order videotape Jerry Springer: The Man for TV, with footage on raw or violent sex broadcast, is the hottest commodity in video—reportedly, Steven Spielberg and Tom Cruise have ordered copies. In the TV industry these days, as the show's sappiness grows goes everybody's trillion Jerry

Romans watching Christmas being thrown to the lions. Until last season, the show's producers routinely deleted the more violent scenes from the broadcast tape. Ever since Universal Television bought the program from Virginia-based Gannett Co. last year and adopted a looser approach to on-air indecency, however, editing has become a major part of the show's content. And despite the licensing threat TV violence from critics and social commentators (the on-air spots of Springer have been a hit with audiences. Since it started airing the fights, its ratings have more than doubled).

Fighting is also a "big reason for the success of The Man for TV," which features dozens of skit sketches when it's not showing themselves taking all their clothes (from "My Dream Is to Pose Nude"), tap dancing (from "I Want a Sexy Job") or strip-teasing (from "You Bachelor Party or Me?"). Typical of the video is a fight scene in "Love Me for Who I Am" when transsexual Harley/Hillary has a chest-beating row with his/her disapproving sister (Not to viewers—much for the gender differences in fighting tactics. Men, for the most part, women pull hair, men use a little of both).

Not surprising, Springer has its share of detractors. Joe Kennedy Republican candidate for Illinois, who has called TV talk shows part of a "pop-culture sitcom machine" contributing to "cultural rot." But by now all the arguments against the show, as depressing and disturbing as it is, are starting to seem a little tired. The fact is, Jerry Springer is not going anywhere—he recently signed on with the show until 2002—and the program is February recorded yet more, adding ratings. Perhaps it's time to supply what that trash sells and leave it at that. Or to follow Springer's own advice: "It's a crazy world—have fun with it."



Scene from Springer, the best dressed (mostly) more bawling, abjecting ratings

Which raises a question: what the heck is going on? Maybe it is idiot to ask, but what is the broad appeal—really—of watching lower-class characters with hooded hair and mud-colored faces (because mud-bank, female expression) J— just embarrassing themselves in front of a national audience? Perhaps it simply makes viewers feel better about the realities to see other folks so screwed up and stupid. Maybe there's an element, too, of what the Germans call Schadenfreude, the delight because seem to take in others' misery. Or maybe Springer lives in a sign of the pre-collapse times, when the most appalling display is accepted and laughed at, when casual brutality can be taken as something cool.

Watching Jerry Springer is the road-to-day equivalent to full-on of the Empire

TELEVISION



Still from the documentary *Immigrant Aspirations of a privileged minority group*

Jews in Tinseltown

Was the American Dream born in Eastern Europe?

Jews and Hollywood, a touchy topic. So touchy that it took Canadian filmmaker Jacobovic and Elliott Halpern more than three years to get funding for a documentary, and another year to secure archival footage. Jacobovic and Halpern, founders of Associated Producers in Toronto, were inspired by Neil Gabler's 1988 best-seller about six early film moguls—all Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. But they were heretofore in shadow on the tale of Gabler's book, *An Empire of Their Own* (from the late Jewish Hollywood, because it had proven too hot to handle, particularly in the United States. Even so they had one little getting a 16 film stock until Canadian entertainment lawyer Michael Levine convinced the Broadway family of Scourgon reasons that Jacobovic, himself an observant Jew and the son of a Hasidic rabbi, would put the footage to good use. Once Scourgon owned Universal Pictures opened its archives, other studios followed.

The result is the more delicately titled *Who's Jewish?*—from *Mein* and the *Amers* (see page 36). *Who's Jewish?* is a beautiful, thought-provoking debate about the film's place. It boldly asserts that a history version of America as a land of opportunity springing from the assimilationist aspirations of a group persecuted in Europe and then their greediness in the United States, Jacobovic called the term "Hollywoodism" to describe the belief system that propelled some two million Eastern European Jews in the early

part of the century to choose American immigration over Marxism or Zionism.

The film traces how the Jewish founders of major studios—Adolph Zukor of Paramount, Carl Laemmle of Universal, the late Warner brothers, Louis B. Mayer of MGM, William Fox of 20th Century Fox and Barry Cohen of Columbia—made their fortunes mostly in clothing and cinema. Then they landed in the unforgiving frontier that was 1920s California, and largely governed Tinseltown's landscape for three decades. The movies they produced reflected their Jewish experience, showing that the outsider can make it in this land. "You tell me there was an American Dream before Jews came to Hollywood," historian *Allen* Harnett says in the film.

Jacobovic and Halpern make their argument with characteristic flair, citing more than 100 film clips in most provocative juxtaposition. footage of Russian pogroms is mirrored by early cowboy movies showing the tussling of settlements; the arrival of immigrants in New York City is set to Judy Garland's *Identify* from *The Wizard of Oz*, singing *Over the Rainbow*. The crux of the documentary is that the moguls were not assimilated Jewish people at all. "We are not supporting the anti-Semitic view, but under-

mining it," says Halpern. "We show there was no sinister Jewish side—there was no sociological reason for why Hollywood evolved the way it did."

In fact, the studio heads were bent on keeping their Jewish identities in both their private lives and their films, in an almost ironic search for legitimacy. They did not dare make anti-Semitic movies until after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. And it was a Jew, Irving Berlin, who wrote both *God Bless America* and *White Christmas*. Their patriotic dream collapsed in the 1950s when the House Un-American Activities Committee targeted Hollywood Jews under the shield of anti-communism.

The film will make some uncomfortable by claiming Jewish authorship of what are viewed as core American values. But Halpern, 61, and Jacobovic, 44, have made a specialty of embracing tough topics. They did their genre "assimilative cinema," which strives to combine the immediacy of hard news with the lyricism of documentary film. A senseless partnership—Jacobovic calls it a *Leonard-Murphy* marriage—has earned the duo a boardroom full of international awards. They won back-to-back Emmys for investigative journalism for *The Plague Men* (1994), about the Ebola virus, and *The Selling of Josephine* (1996), about the sex-trade traffic of young girls in Nepal and India. *Deadly Elements*, a stark portrait of the Middle East quagmire, earned a 1992 Gema for best feature documentary, and *Plague Fighters*, which chronicled the Ebola outbreak in Zaire, won two 1997 Gemas.

Jacobovic, who came to Montreal from Israel at age 8, launched his career with *Palooka*, the first film to expose the plight of Ethiopian Jews, and it led indirectly to their 1991 arrival in Israel. He is now working on a feature about the lost tribes of Israel, and is again pursuing the Israeli government to take an interest in an obscure group with 10-million roots—this one on the border of Burma and India.

Such activist film-making, as well as strategic partnerships with broadcasters around the world, has turned Associated Producers into a rarity—a profit-generating documentary company that now employs 15 people. Multyland was financed entirely through pre-sales. Thanks to the CBC's behind-the-scenes support of the project, As Canadian, the film makers believe they were close enough to the American Dream to understand it, but far enough from Hollywood to deconstruct it. As Jews, they were determined not to take behind the same self-censorship that plagued the Hollywood moguls.



Jacobovic, film, actress

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Allan Fotheringham



Why has Mike Harris stiffed the Quints?

Some decades ago, Premier Berton was being interviewed about his latest book. The big book was going on about his favorite theme—which his own amazing career long ago proved—that being, and deprecating Canadians don't realize their own history is not just all foreboding 'n' too boring and dull.

Well, said the interviewer, give us an example. Berton, off the top of his head, cited Niagara Falls as a great story never told. Wanting to the top, he asked why no one had written on the Disaster quintaplets.

Twenty years on, no one had, and so Berton—who yearly turns out a best-selling tome whether he's on or off—in 1977 produced *The Disaster News: A Tragic Tale of Misadventure*. He gleefully remembers, "There I was, going away on TV—after a day or two of a tedious young writer's great idea. And so one picked up on it." (Berton told anyone on Niagara Falls, which the big book turned into a 1982 book and a coffee-table picture.)

And as we see now in 1986 and the monetizing, disgusting signs of these poor exploited girls in back at headlines and the disgusting, chilling picture Ontario Tories are offering the surviving three women series of charity after as grief-stricken raised their lives.

Paraded daily as monkeys in a show "Quintad" in the Northern Ontario book, they represented 2500 million for the province after their birth in 1934. Premier Mike Harris, demonstrating again the fear that proves why he is trifling in public in provincial Liberals, led by a man whose name no one can remember or even pronounce, is offering each a token take-it-or-leave-it pension.

The three survivors, now 52, live outside Montreal in near poverty, waiting on our \$700-a-month pension and so live together to share expenses. It is one of the more disgusting episodes in—as Berton 20 years ago revealed—this country's history.

One of the stories, no doubt apocryphal, has unlettered and madly gaga Dionne holding the flashlight while surrounded country doc A. R. Drake—about to become world-famous—delivers one and then two and then three pink little tots. One or the other of them is supposed to have said: "Perhaps we should that off the light—maybe it's attracting them."



One of the true stories, revealed only recently, is that tiny pop used to grace the premier girls individually when driving them in his car. They, confused, went to the local parish priest, who suggested that in such circumstances they should just wear thicker coats. When that came out, reporters phoned the meticulous researcher Berton who said he heard the story from one of the husbands of the sorry little victims but refused to cause more pain, in his book, than they already had suffered. And he couldn't prove it. Nor could his publisher's lawyers.

Now we are down to 1985. The doomed monkeys in the zoo are 43. Two as we know are dead. Those who were married are no longer their couplings permitted because of their strange, incomprehensible upbringing.

There plus for justice—and escape from elderly poverty—came a news conference in Queen's Park, home of the government that is arrogantly denying that it "laughed" at some \$22 million that was supposed to go into their transit account baggage. (They are represented by Clayton Ruby the millionaire crumpling left wing lawyer. He knows what he is doing.)

The last but not these dreadful history-forgotten and undereducated women were in that pink state; transportation was when they were four years old, dressed in identical frocks and socks as usual, paraded as some exemplars who could help rural Ontario out of the Great Depression.

Berton, who has always had the quiet terror of a socialist, explains that in a province struggling against economic strangulation, the quints were "an invaluable resource in gold, nickel, petroleum or hydro power." They saved—400 km north of Toronto—in entire region from bankruptcy.

A half-century before these dreadful Disasterlands were born in California and Florida and now—battered forlorn outside Paris—the disgusting bureaucrats at Queen's Park wanted Quintad, a quartet of these frolics of justice.

There were five identical girls below. The chances of a woman giving birth, medical science tells us, to identical quintaplets were 64 million to 1. The odds on birth of identical quintaplets—all developed from a male egg—were so infinitesimal as to not even be estimated. (Even with fertility drugs, there have not been any since.)

The result in the starvation-stricken Depression is that the poor kids became freaks—like the multi-headed cat in the circus. Their world's fair seemed to exhibit them. Quintad, built by a government that confiscated them from parents, housed survivors in public washrooms, huge parking lots and a "Public Observation Playground" where three million gawkers had to pass over them—at the time more famous than Shirley Temple—when the last 130 km of road to Quintad wasn't even paved.

Hang down your head, Mike Harris, for these damned and tragic women who will soon be dead.

Hands-on safety

At CN, we've found that safety performance rises higher faster when everyone lends a hand.

A case in point: CN's Joint Safety and Health Committees bring union and management employees together on a regular basis to discuss safety issues and identify opportunities and solutions. They have proven so successful that they are now held routinely at more than 300 locations across Canada.

That same spirit of cooperation also drives our Safety Audit teams. Made up of management

and union employees, the team member teams inspect CN rail yards and other facilities across Canada with a three-month cycle, ensuring that safety standards are met. This safety equipment is fully operational and in place. And that safety procedures are followed to the letter.

Of course, we won't stop there. Because when it comes to safety, yours ours, our customers', you are in very good hands.



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